SAMPLE 'BALUT'

Alan Peter Cayetano, Taguig-Pateros congressman, is hatching a plan to distribute boiled duck embryo to his Senate campaign. Chinese traders who introduced this specialty settled in what's now known as Pateros, for 'pato' (duck) and 'tapatero' (tinsmaker).

What happens when you can't pay your credit card bill? Some words of caution from 2 credit card gurus plus 6 ways to clean up plastic debt

Lifestyle at home: Jewelry designer's refurbished abode celebrates the Oriental spirit

Inquirer man in Hollywood meets Christina Ricci: Wild, sexy, terrific as nymphet in new film

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, March 4, 2007 ## 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 08 P10 www.inquirer.net

Mike A co-starring in Cayetano's TV plug

By Volt Contreras

"THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!" SAYS A PEEVED FIRST GENTLEMAN Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, crafting the start of a 30-second political TV ad.

MIKE A A6

US traders bullish on RP, to invest $3B

JESUS' BURIAL SITE: The faithful traditionally believe Jesus was buried at the site where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher now stands in Jerusalem. In the Bible account, Jesus was taken down from the cross by his family and friends led by Joseph of Arimathea and laid in a tomb where He was for three days before He rose from the dead.

A7

AmCham says figure could go up to $9B if …

By Michael Lim Ubac

INDICATING INTERNATIONAL investors' renewed confidence in the Philippines, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines has said that investors from the United States would be putting in this year up to $3 billion worth of investments in the country's infrastructure, manufacturing and information technology sectors.

Robert Sears, the AmCham executive director, made this announcement at a roundtable discussion with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday on the improved fiscal situation and business optimism in the country.

Sears said the "optimistic" assessment of AmCham members was that the figure could "potentially go up to $9 billion in a year" if the government would "take care of some red tape issues."

"I think the confidence level this year is higher than at the same time last year," he said.

Sears said US businessmen and other foreign investors in the country were not too concerned about the results of the midterm elections in May.

"Business can't wait … [They] are proceeding as if there were no elections because they're here …," he said.

US TRADERS A4

'THE LOST TOMB OF JESUS'

No reason to **rewrite Christianity**

By Randolf C. Flores, SVD

(Editor's note: The author is a Bible and Hebrew Language professor at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City.)

HIS DISCIPLES MAY GO AND STEAL him away. (Matthew 27:64)

This was what the chief priests and the Pharisees suspected would happen after Jesus' death as they went to Pontius Pilate the day after with a request that a guard be stationed at Jesus' tomb.

In that culture, like ours, where deception, lying, hypocrisy and secrecy are social strategies, the missing corpse would prove that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the Bible, Jesus was in the tomb for three days before his resurrection.

Does the above passage (Matthew 27:64) allude that Jesus' body was transferred, if not stolen, to another tomb?

The feature documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," premiering today on the Discovery Channel, is an intriguing attempt to shed light on this question.

The executive producer of the documentary is James Cameron of "Titanic" fame and the director is Emmy-award winning documentarian, Simcha Jacobovici.

NO REASON A8

2 party spokesmen **speak out**

ACE DURAND: At 38, he calls himself a "spokesboy" (seconds to Tamano in the good books department but believes the opponent is hitting Team Unity below the belt.

'Mr. Cool Guy' has ace up his sleeve

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT LOOKS LIKE THE MAY ELECTIONS will not be just a bruising battle for the Senate between Team Unity and the Genuine Opposition but also a silent contest between the two good-looking campaign spokespersons deployed by each camp.

And Team Unity's Joseph "Joe" Hotchkiss Durano knows he's being compared to GO's Adel Tamano—like himself an Ateneo law graduate—in more ways than one.

"People ask who is more handsome, as I say I have already canceled that Adel is the 'crush ng bayan' and I am just the 'crush ng buhay.' I'll be content if only my wife has a crush on me," the

MR. COOL GUY A6

ADEL TAMANO: With a resume that can upstage that of many candidates for the Senate, he's the first Filipino Muslim with a master's degree in Law from Harvard.

Driven pragmatist finds job a breeze

By Norman Bordadora

WHEN HIS SON, SAN JUAN MAYOR Joseph Victor Ejercito, bowed out of the Genuine Opposition's senatorial slate, deposed President Joseph Estrada named two "principled oppositionists" as possible replacements.

One was Sonia Roco, widow of the late senator and presidential candidate Raul Roco. The other was lawyer Adel Abbas Tamano, a relative unknown.

Sonia Roco is now part of the GO ticket. But Tamano did not win.

"To run for a national post is one thing. Winning it is another," he told the Inquirer.

Tamano was not playing coy. He admitted to being driven—a

DRIVEN A6

TEAM UNITY

Candidates for Senate in alphabetical order

Edgardo 'Ed' Angara
Born Sept. 24, 1934, Cuenca; married. Education: University of Michigan, Master's in Law. Occupation: Lawyer, Senator, 1987-2007. Advocacy: Education, water drivers

Jokin Arroyo
Born Jan. 3, 1927, Camalaniugan, Cor; married. Education: UP Law. Occupation: Lawyer, Senator, 2001-2007. Advocacy: Human rights

Michael 'Tol' Defensor
Born June 26, 1960, Manila; married. Education: UP Diploma in Public Administration. Occupation: Presidential Chief of Staff, 2006-2007. Advocacy: Housing, handicapped

Jamalul 'Kiram' Kiram
Born July 16, 1938, Sulu; married. Education: Manuel Luis Quezon University, Law. Occupation: Businessman, Presidential Consultant, 2005-2007. Advocacy: Muslims, Mindanao dev't

Vicente 'Vic' Magsaysay
Born Jan. 28, 1940, Zamboanga; married. Education: Letran College, Commerce. Occupation: Zamboanga governor. Advocacy: Local gov't, decentralization

Cesar 'Bubuy' Montano
Born Aug. 1, 1962, Manila; married. Education: Ateneo University, industrial engineering. Occupation: Actor/director. Advocacy: Education, health, film industry

Teresa 'Tessie' Oreta
Born June 28, 1944, Manila; married. Education: Assumption, Librarian & History. Occupation: Senator, 1998-2004. Advocacy: Women's & children's rights

Prospero 'Butch' Pichay Jr.
Born June 28, 1960, Sampaloc; Bar. Education: De La Salle, Economics. Occupation: Rep. Surigao del Sur 1st dist., 1998-2007. Advocacy: Livelihood, education, youth, sports

Ralph 'Korecto' Recto
Born Jan. 11, 1964, Quezon City; married. Education: De La Salle, Business Administration. Occupation: Senator, 2001-2007. Advocacy: Economy, rural dev't

Luis 'Chavit' Singson
Born June 21, 1941, Narvacan; married. Education: UST, Architecture. Occupation: Ilocos Sur Governor. Advocacy: Agriculture, local gov't

Vicente 'Tito' Sotto III
Born Aug. 24, 1948, Manila; married. Education: Colegio de San Juan de Letran, English. Occupation: TV host; Senator, 1992-2004. Advocacy: Illegal drugs

Juan Miguel 'Migz' Zubiri
Born April 13, 1960, Baguio; Dev., married. Education: UP Los Baños, Agricultural Management. Occupation: Rep. Bukidnon 3rd dist., 1998-2007. Advocacy: Agriculture, rural dev't, festivals

COMPILED BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

Agri dep't food depots bring markets to neighborhoods

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Business

FOR OVER 10 YEARS, VENDOR CRESANTA Baroc had been going to the Pasig ex Pinaty public markets as early as 1 in the morning to get first crack at the fresh meat and vegetables just delivered from the provinces.

Coming any later would mean the 53-year-old mother of five from Barangay Signal, P10 Complex in Taguig City would be left with second and third-class meat and vegetables, which might be rejected by the customers she delivers them to.

Since her over P2,000 worth of vegetables were too heavy for her to carry, she had to spend another P150 to P200 to hire a jeep from Pinaty at Pasig to her home in Taguig, thus adding to her expenses.

Those days of hardship are finally gone, thanks to the opening of the Barangay Food Terminal (BFT) near her neighborhood at Barangay Signal on Feb. 24.

The Taguig BFT project of the Department of Agriculture and the Taguig local government directly links the suppliers to retailers and wholesalers like Baroc, thus eliminating the middlemen.

This way farmers and livestock raisers can sell their products at higher prices, while the retailers can get their products

AGRI A6

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Second
FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

It's goodbye GO if Kiko is replaced, says Noynoy

By Nikko Dizon and Donna Pazzibugan

THREE WEEKS INTO THE CAMPAIGN, COALITION still seems to elude the Genuine Opposition (senatorial) ticket.

One of its candidates yesterday floated the possibility of his leaving the coalition if party mate Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, a reluctant "guest candidate" whom GO stalwarts dropped from the 12-slot lineup, is replaced.

"Tonight also say goodbye if the agreement not to replace Pangilinan is not honored," said Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto "Teofy" Guingona III, who like Pangilinan belongs to the Liberal Party-Official ruling.

Guingona's remarks came a day after Sen. Franklin Drilon, president of the LP faction, publicly reminded the GO leadership of a supposed agreement that the GO nonbinary will carry only 11 names despite Pangilinan's decision not to campaign with the push.

"My LDP went into the coalition with two representatives, I said Biliu," Aquino said in a phone interview. "I don't see myself campaigning for other candidates but not for my party mates."

Efforts to draw earlier positive than replacing Pangilinan would result in a 13th slot, Aquino said he could not reasonably campaign for 13 candidates for that would mean "junking" one of them.

Aquino, however, qualified his statement at one point in the interview.

He said that, "in fairness" to candidates" under the pronouncements made by GO leaders, namely, campaign manager JV Ejercito, spokesperson Adel Tamano and Makati City Mayor Jejomar "Jojo" Binay, that they had not considered replacing Pangilinan with another candidate.

Others also opposed

But Aquino, Pangilinan has proven himself worthy of being with the political opposition. "In substance" refers he joined the coalition of the former's disagreement on various issues, like the controversial Executive Order 464, Proclamation 1017 and the subsequent preemptive response policy.

"But in terms of style, I think it's the prerogative of a candidate to choose how he wishes to conduct his campaign," Aquino said, apparently referring to Pangilinan's decision not to get with the GO bandwagon.

Other GO candidates also said they were against replacing Pangilinan since the issue might divert attention away from their own campaigns.

Senatorial Sen. Pimble Lacson and Senator Roy Francis Escudero said that if they had their way they would not drop Pangilinan from the ticket.

Leave 12th slot open

Earlier, the two assisted Pangilinan's refusal to join other GO candidates in unity, including their proclamation rally on Feb. 24.

Tagaig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said it would be better if GO did not get a replacement candidate.

Isnida Rizza, widow of the late Sen. Raul Roco, said she preferred to leave the 12th slot open to avoid another controversy.

"I hope things could be settled as soon as possible, and I believe that will happen," Lacson told reporters in Filipino after GO stalwarts from Bicol, Tomas Cosio in Lipa City in Batangas.

Don't rock the boat

He said if it were up to him, he would not have dropped Pangilinan from the slate "because he was already adopted and we had already captivated our support."

"But now that he has been dropped, I hope that we can get a replacement as soon. It will surely rock the boat," Lacson said.

"Because candidates will do. Things will only get complicated," he added.

Escudero said that while he respects the decision of GO's executive committee, he would personally continue to support Pangilinan.

Enough of controversies

Escudero said he was against adopting another candidate. "It's not the right time. Iska may magulo na rin eee. Kasi baka mayroon pa kaming mailisip na kasi nanaman ang magsalita, 'Sa mid to a plea on the Filipino mind for '12' Lenart, added sarcastically for a bit.

"As a member of GO, I am duty-bound to respect the decision. But personally when I go on mid I say vote for Kiko," he added.

"It will be best if GO will limit replacement to ... anywhere might be close but it was campaign issues," said Cayetano.

Roco, who is running for public office for the first time, said the board had her confidently win a new adopted candidate would once more throw uncertainty in the win of the candidates.

Roco and other GO candidates ex-senators John Osmeña and Nikki Coseteng showed up at a press conference in Lipa, along with a representative of former senators, ex-Sen. Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, who is campaigning from military detention.

GO finally holds big rally but few bets come

By Dona Pazzibugan

LIPA CITY, BATANGAS—AT LEAST TWO senatorial bets failed earlier in Pinoy Island, the Genuine Opposition (GO) senatorial ticket pushed through with a big rally in this Southern Tagalog city yesterday.

However, only four candidates—John Osmeña, Sonia Roco, Nikki Coseteng and Renggie "Warrior" Aquino III—showed up. Pimble Lacson sent his son, Atty. Ignacio "Nicko" Pimentel III, who reportedly had to accompany his mother to the political rally organized by opposition gubernatorial candidate Ricky Recto in front of the city's Rep Hall.

The other GO candidates, Lacson, Tomasan Rep. Francis Escudero and Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, took part in the countryside but did not attend the press conference also arranged by Recto.

They instead went to the hot-bike party of Makati newspaper publisher John Ellsworth Ilas in Batangas.

Rowing some initially disappointed the crowd of about 2,000 that filled up the rally grounds, but they cheered when vice gubernatorial aspirant and multi-awarded actor Christopher de Leon arrived.

They rose to feel by Mayor Vilma Santos, wife of administration senatorial candidate Ralph Recto and a former acting partner of De Leon.

The Batangas rally packed the high in the wake of the unscripted rallies in Iloilo and Aklan last week.

Recto, who is currently Batangas vice governor, said another rally would be held in Batangas town, capping a successful series today.

Earlier in the day, GO introduced a new campaign tool—it: NGO + "Talakayang Bayan" in public forums.

The first opposition "Talakayang Bayan," apparently in consonance to the administration's town hall meetings, was held at the Lipa City public market. Lost rally senatorial candidate Sonia Roco and Nikki Recto were around. The two candidates were both dropped by GO campaign manager JV Ejercito, former senator Richard Gordon and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The rest of the candidates had either bugged off after the preceding motorcade, or were in other engagements in the area.

Ejercito, under fire for failing to get the opposition campaign off to come a strong start, said they did not want to be cited alone to the "traditional" rallies where the candidates did all the talking before guitar-and crowds.

"It's a new approach," he said, in his inside the surprise announcement of holding a public forum which drew a crowd to the public market.

Militants demand soldiers' pullout from metro

Hold it! Militants cry over coco deal

By Jerome Aning and Alexis Romero

MILITANT GROUPS ARE AFRAID THE RECENT infiltration of urban areas could soon spawn "death squads" that would target leftists as they called on the mayors of Manila, Quezon and Caloocan cities to demand that the national government order the recall of the soldiers deployed in their localities.

In a joint press statement, Anakpawis and Bayan Muna said Mayors Lito Atienza, Feliciano Belmonte and Enrico Echiverri should also explain why the military was spreading its dirty claws and if it was true that they had different motives for the deployment.

The groups said the presence of military personnel in the three cities with elite constituted "de facto martial law" that was creating "an atmosphere of terror" and violating election laws.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said that based on the experience in other parts of the country, militarization usually preceded extrajudicial killings.

"This is what they did in areas where extrajudicial killings occurred. We now see that aside from uniformed soldiers, the AFP's death squads are also freely roaming and operating around Metro Manila," he said.

Mariano believes the military is behind the unsolved killings of leftists and journalists that have drawn international condemnation.

The Inquirer reported yesterday that Army soldiers have been regularly "patrolling" around the crowded Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City, and that they have been tagging red militants.

The soldiers were also said to be urging residents not to vote for left-leaning party-list groups like Anakpawis and Bayan Muna and threatening urban poor residents if they vote or support these groups.

In a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, chief of the military's National Capital Region Command (NCRCOM), explained that the presence of the soldiers was part of the military's civil military operations. The soldiers were not to conduct raids, he said.

"We are of a sweet approach by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We are trying to introduce lasting peace and development that a communist-based rather than trying to impose peace through military force," Dolorfino said.

He said that by making their presence felt in urban communities, the military was "being proactive" in ending any future problems in the community and to prevent Philippine society from collapsing like a "house eaten by termites from the inside."

Dolorfino said the reports that the soldiers had been campaigning against party-list groups were being investigated.

"This is first time that we heard these allegations," he said, adding that a memo would be sent to all units to immediately investigate.

Lt. Col. Harold Vinarao, who heads the civil military operations (CMO) unit of the NCRCOM, said the order of the military leadership was clear: "Stay out involved in partisan politics."

He also denied the soldiers had "targeted" militant groups. No one has been arrested, he said.

"They should not be afraid. There is no surveillance of party-list members," he said.

Reyes said 20 teams composed of 10 soldiers were deployed to "problematic communities" in Caloocan, San Mateo, Pandacan, Tondo and Quezon City as early as November 2006. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 4, 2007
2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A covenant with Abraham.

Yahweh brought him outside and said to him, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that."

Abram believed Yahweh who, because of this, held him to be an upright man. And he said, "I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

Then Abram asked, "My Lord, how am I to know that it shall be mine?" Yahweh replied, "Bring me a 3-year-old heifer, a 3-year-old goat, a 3-year-old ram, a turtle dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these animals, cut them in two, and laid each half facing its other half; but he did not cut the bird in half. The birds of prey came down upon them, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep came over Abram, and a dreadful darkness sank held of him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between the halves of the victims. On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this country, from the river of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Our homeland is in heaven.

Unite in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and look at those who walk in our way of life. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. I have said it to you many times, and now I repeat it with tears: they are heading for ruin; their belly is their god and they find proof of what should be their shame. They only think of worldly things.

We, on the contrary, it is heaven, from where we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. He will transfigure our lowly body, making it like his own body, endow it in glory through the power which is his to submit everything to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, you my glory and crown, be steadfast in the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

The transfiguration.

About eight days after Jesus had said all this, he took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. Two men were talking with Jesus: Moses and Elijah. They had just appeared in heavenly glory and were telling him about his departure that had to take place in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had fallen asleep, but they awoke suddenly and saw Jesus' Glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were about to leave, Peter said to him, "Master, how good it is for us to be here! Let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Yet Peter didn't know what to say. And as he said this a cloud appeared and covered them; and the disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then there came a voice from the cloud, "This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him." And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was there alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves at the time, telling no one of anything they had seen.

Commentary

Abram trusted God in darkness, fire, birds of prey, and in the words of promise that he will be a people like the stars and that this land will be theirs, as God's gift. And as God's own Body, we have total trust more intimately and personally. Abram obeys and does what God commands. We must obey and live as the citizens of heaven, not any nation on earth. We must see this as an extension of the cross of Christ—those not on things of the world: military, economic, and political power, selfishness, individuality, making it in their field, or living with greed, avarice, theft, exploitation. We must stand firm in Jesus.

Jesus shows us the God of light, the God of transcendence, God in his own flesh and body. As he prays, he is transfigured and we see God's glory shining through his very person—this is what we make our focus on, and live in faith on. Jesus is now as the new liberator and lawgiver, the new prophet. His words of justice is his accomplished and he will go to the cross and bond over his person and life. He invites us to come with him and to focus both the burden of the cross and the glory to our lives. We are drawn into the Trinity and the Father tells us, "Listen to him!" And we must obey in the power of the Spirit. Who are we obeying and listening to this Lent?

CALLING ALL 1957 GRADUATES OF

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

You are invited to a Testimonial Lunch in your honor
11AM, April 13, 2007
Dr. Ricardo Alfonso Hall
Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation
Regalado Ave, West Fairview Quezon City

Hosted by: The FEU - NRMF Administration, Faculty and Staff

Please contact the Dean's Office: 938-4681 / 427-6213 local 1211
look for Josie or the Alumni Office: 427-6213 local 3000 look for Gay

Messages

United Nations Population Fund
Because Everyone Counts

Cancellation of the Philippine Visit of UNFPA Executive Director and UN Undersecretary-General Thoraya Ahmed Obaid

Due to an emergency meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General, will be unable to visit the Philippines as scheduled.

Consequently, the following meetings and activities are cancelled:

- 3 March, 2-4 pm – Discussion with Civil Society Organizations, Non-Government Organizations, Governors and Mayors, and Legislators [UNFPA Office, RCBC Plaza, Makati City]
- 5 March, 12:30 to 2 pm – Luncheon Meeting with Donors [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 5 March, 2:15 to 2:45 pm – Meeting with Religious Leaders [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 5 March, 7 pm – Dinner Reception for Government and Civil Society Partners [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 6 March, 8-9 am – Breakfast Meeting with POPCOM Board [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]
- 6 March, 9:30-10:30 am – Press / Media Conference [Renaissance Hotel, Makati City]

Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused and our profound gratitude for our partners' and stakeholders' continued support.

For Inquiries, Contact:
Ms. Celeste Biggins, Personal Assistant to the Representative
Telephone (632) 901-0500; Fax (632) 901-0540
10th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Joma: Nothing wrong with having a little fun

By Alexis Pupa

WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE partying?

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. Sison Jr. Friday yesterday defended the posting on his website of pictures of him carousing with movie star Ara Mina last Christmas, saying it showed his closeness to the Filipino community in Europe.

The military had used the pictures to criticize the self-exiled leader, for "feigning ills while his supporters are rotting like hell."

"It was a Christmas party of the Filipino community in the Netherlands, not of the communist party so it was perfectly alright for me to have festivities (picture-taking), as-gagajo (dancing) and kantahan (singing) with the Filipino movie and singing stars like Mina, Aiza Gibbs, at-atbp in the outpost-outcast. It was the biggest festivity of the Filipino community in the Netherlands. I was invited as a special guest," Sison said in a statement published in his website (www.josemariasison.org).

Sison, also chief political consultant of the National Democratic front of the Philippines, said he and other NDFP members headed by chief Luis Jalandoni and Philippine Embassy officials hosted by Ambassador Wenny Angeles were at the event "to mix with the Filipino community."

"There was nothing extraordinary, nothing comparable to the wild parties thrown by the sybaritic officials of the Arroyo regime and its armed forces," Sison said. He added that his attendance at a Christmas party "does not change the frugality and austerity of my life."

Sison also blasted the military which released the pictures to the media the other day for saying that the New People's Army was "rolling."

"I think that the people should also visit everyday the website www.philippinerevolution.net to know the happy and eventful political, economic, social and cultural life and the heroic and successful revolutionary struggles of the people and the revolutionary forces like the Communist Party of the Philippines, NPA, the NDFP, the mass organizations and organs of democratic power."

Sison said the armed forces should instead focus on "stopping extrajudicial killings and not deflect public attention from these by instituting new Christmas party pictures with Ara Mina."

"If they are truly concerned about the plight of the Filipino people, the revolutionary United Front should stop the extrajudicial killings, abduction and torture of its many people and the counter-military operations, smashing the tuck and salon communities in the Philippines and displacing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and farms."

Sison also said the editor of his website posted the pictures with Ara Mina, Aiza Gibbs and others at the party "to show my closeness to the Filipino community and the variety of my activities and to counter the attempt of the US imperialists and the Arroyo regime to demonize and isolate my person. The self-exile-in-a-secret-safehouse is good source of humor in putting social relief to the ordeal."

Sison pointed out that his website also contained sections, articles about the problems of the Filipino people and the world which is trailing from "US imperialism and brutal regimes like that of Arroyo."

Holy Spirit cites 14 'spirited women'

FOURTEEN GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE OF the Holy Spirit were honored last month by the Phi Alumnae Foundation Inc. for exemplary achievements, reflective of the institution's academic excellence and spiritual foundation.

The 2007 Alumnae of the Year awards were given out during the annual homecoming at the CHS campus on Mendiola, Manila. This year's theme was "Spirited Women."

The CHS was established almost a century ago.

The awardees were:

• Aurora Alfonso-Sosio (Chemistry, 1957), the only extension specialist in food technology in Hawaii. She was twice awarded a national award by the US Department of Agriculture in the authoritative organizational representative of the Hawaii Department of Health.

• Jaliusine Manotoc-Rubino (Commerce, magna cum laude, '73), who conceptualized and refounded the Bon Voix Bank, established the Philippine Office of Economic Development Cooperative Bankers, and organized the Entrepreneurs Foundation of the Philippines.

• Maria Fatima Sevilla-Bandalaria (Fine Arts, magna cum laude, '86), freelance artist-designer, painter, cultural writer, art teacher, art events organizer and businesswoman.

• Angela Aquino-Kuhlenbeck (BS, '82), award-winning movie and TV director in the Philippines and abroad, and first Filipina woman to win a Peace Award. She helped pioneer the development of Philippine TV.

• Edwarda Raquel Santos Gamez (BS, '61), CEO and president of Makati Skyline Inc., chair of Dyna Freight Shipping Transportation Inc., Thermpo (Cheniere lab) and Sweets Manufacturing Corp. and Inc.

• Lucinda Lalu Orea (BS, '72), current Philippine ambassador to the Holy See and businesswoman involved in real estate, radio network and multimedia marketing.

She has received three Papal Awards.

• Felicia Co-Pesng, Ph.D. (BS, '65; MS, '69), who has excelled in the fields of mathematics, statistics, management, marketing and human resources development and as accredited master trainer in international human resource management here and abroad.

• Dyanito Salvador Bueta, Ph.D. (BS, '87-JHC; '90), a founder of Chicago's Pinoy Inner-Development Association, which is dedicated to community service. She was distinguished Chicago's Child Development Curriculum, CSU College of Chicago.

• Lourdesanda Francisco-Siew, MD (BS, '67), an independent radiology contractor for Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Healthcare Systems and university lecturer. She has authored papers published in various medical journals.

• Maria Teresa Rodriguez (Fine Arts, '72), holder of a master's degree in museology at the Sorbonne University Graduate School in New York, specializing in museum and gallery administration. She received a certificate of recognition from the Philippine Consul General, New York and a certificate of special congressional recognition from the US House of Representatives for outstanding service to the Philippine community in New Jersey.

• Edwina T. Villanueva (BS, '68), the first woman partner at SGV and Co., lifetime member of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and management/financial consultant and reserve corporate secretary and trustee of the BC Silver College of Accountancy Foundation. She served as chair and advisor of the National Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Philippines), and conceptualized "Kaisa Kaisahan," which came to embrace religious instruction in public schools.

• Soledad Aquino Hernandez, Ph.D. (AB '55; BSE, '56), a full professor at the Asian Institute of Management, holder of management and consultancy positions in international and national organizations, and author of two books and 20 research monographs, articles, manuals and other publications. She received awards from the Phi Kappa Phi International Society and United New York as international woman and was one of Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in 1986.

• Ida Mae Pauline F. Bagsican (BS, '87; BFA, '91), golf luminary. Among her contributions to society were as team leader of management and program seminars to displaced persons and refugees in Silver Flame, social services coordinator program officer with the UR High Commission for Refugees in Hong Kong, and overall project coordinator and consultant for the Shaw Convention Development Authority.

A special award of recognition was given to banker Mercedes Tan-Gotauco (MS, '46) for being instrumental in improving the lives of Filipino families through banking and real estate.

Driven pragmatist finds job a breeze

From page A1

year that he said he inherited from his mother, civic leader Leonarda Alikpa. But there he is also the son of a pragmatist, Mussolini Talusan, one of the last senators elected before President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in 1972.

"It was precisely my mom who pushed my dad to accept the (local) stakes she learned that my father was being assisted by the Nacionalista Party so for one of the senatorial candidates," Tamano said. "My dad, just give him a good book and he'll review."

Today, the 36-year-old Tamano is one of the most visible talking heads in the media as GO's campaign spokesperson.

Perhaps like job will prepare me for whatever lies ahead for me in politics," he said.

Wooed by 2 camps

But's the administration and the opposition had wooed Tamano to be the Muslim candidate in their respective slates.

He was a legal adviser by ARO CEO, especially during the failed impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was also on the team of treasurer Jesper Jacobo Alcaraz, who, he says, defected initially as the then President's impeachment trial in 2000.

"The administration was more aggressive, promising funding and logistics. But I was not yet ready," Tamano said.

"(I'm going to run, I want to make sure that (it's going to win. I didn't want to be the token Muslim candidate, and the opposition respected that," he said.

Talusanian

According to Tamano, the administration's selection of the Sultan of Sulu, Jamalul Kiram, as its Muslim candidate showed its ignorance and a lack of respect for Filipino Muslims.

"I (once) went to Sulu and asked people there what they thought of Kiram. You know what? They don't even know him," Tamano said, adding:

"If you really care for the Bangsa, you'd pick a candidate who has a chance to win. If there's none, you get one as early as two years before the election and do outreach to (get him to be the national commissioner)."

'Easiest job'

With a resume that can read, it's strange that of many of the current crop of senatorial candidates, Tamano accepted the job of campaign spokesperson, which he described as a breeze.

"We have adorable candidates. The issues are in our favor. (Being spokesperson for the GO slate) is the easiest job in the world," he told the Inquirer just after the campaign period started last month.

Hecky Jorge, and other fan, Francis Pangilinan was dropped from the ticket and GO rallies were getting canceled in Iloilo and Mindoro, he still thinks so.

"It's still the easiest job. He knew the administration is trying to sabotage our campaign but at the end of the day, people will realize that the problem we're selling is the best president," he said yesterday.

Family man

With his family background, superior education, good looks and lighthearted eloquence, Tamano could have himself mounted a decent run for a seat in the Senate.

He's a family man, married to lawyer Sherwin Tagoman, and with two children aged four and one. (At one time, the inquirer called at 9 p.m. for a quick interview (he and campaign boss giving an interview while trying to calm a crying child in the back ground.)

MA in law from Harvard

He has a master's degree in law from Harvard University and another in public administration from the University of the Philippines. He got his law degree at the Ateneo Law School.

"I am the first Filipino Muslim to rake up a master's at the Harvard Law School," Tamano said, but quickly added that he did not mean to brag.

He teaches constitutional law and legal writing at the Ateneo and the Lyceum University.

Teaching helps him connect and empathize with almost all sorts of people, he said.

As does growing up the son of a senator whose friends included the rustic of the land to the country's best who also found himself job-less when martial law was declared.

Good name

"Before my dad died, he told me that he did not have much to leave me but a good name," Tamano said.

Jokingly, I said cash would be just fine. Now that I'm all grown up, I realize the value of that good name," he said.

Tamano said that even during the times when they were comfortable, his father would make him take public transportation to school.

"We were taught the value of money," he said.

But being a commoner did not give Tamano reason to be intimidated by the "high and mighty."

"Growing up, I had the opportunity to meet people like Marcos and (the late Senators Lorenzo) Tañada and (Jose) Diokno," he said. "They'd invite me over to visit my dad. So when I grew up and talked to them, I was not star-struck anymore."

Tamano says this as an advantage now that he's a candidate against the Arroyo administration, and good training for when he decides to make a run for the Senate.

He pointed out that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also went to Harvard, "but it was just for a short course."

Edge in academics

"I went there for a master's degree and not a scholarship from Harvard itself," he said.

"They may have the edge in experience, but I think I have the edge academically. I think I'm well-versed (that) I got to debate with the likes of Miriam," he added.

With his present job of articulating other people's thoughts and defending GO candidates when the numbers really favor the Tamanos may be well-honed for the challenge of debating the sharp, eye-targeted Santiago.

'Mr. Cool Guy' has ace up his sleeve

From page A1

sub-spoken tourism secretary said, laughing.

His wife is Carmi Lucasinas, with whom he has a son (3), 23 years old) and a daughter (Lara, 12).

Duenas said Tamano's appointment was good news to him: "I felt relieved that the artist adopted a decent spokesperson. Artist is a good guy."

Told that Tamano appeared to be more on the offensive, he said the man was "probably following the strategy of his opponents."

If he's sufficiently humble to concede to Tamano in the looks category, Duenas is flattered when people marvel at his youth. At 36, he is the youngest member of the Arroyo Cabinet.

"Not yet, the (campaign) spokesman? You're too young," he recalled people asking him. "But they ask it in a flattering way."

He said he had even taken to calling himself the "upsdowning."

Duenas said he was surprised when President Macapagal-Arroyo offered him the job. "They need a spokesperson. Are you willing to take on the responsibility?"

Like a good soldier, he accepted with gusto.

Patience is a virtue

According to Duenas, patience is a virtue that can probably distinguish him from the competition.

He owes to be "Mr. Cool Guy" in keeping with his cool persona and his job description.

"You know in politics anything goes, so you have to have patience and tolerance. Right now, it's like a boxing bout. We are fighting alone but our opponent is hitting us below the belt, so we just have to be patient and tolerant," Duenas said.

He said the opposition had been hanging on "cylinders is sure," such as the "Hello Garci" electronic fraud tapes and the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

"The opposition is saying the economic gains of the arroyo administration are more statistical, but the people know better," he said.

Duenas said his job was to bring about a "high level" campaign by focusing the debate on Team Unity's platform of government and avoiding mudslinging and mudmaking.

"I know my responsibility is to showcase the platform of government of the administration slate. I try not to be distracted and de-railed," Duenas said.

Team Unity's candidates are individually responsible for answering specific allegations against them, he said.

And he may have an ace up his sleeve—his being part of the Arroyo Cabinet the past three years.

"I'm supposed to be the most accessible guy to talk about our platform of government. I'm the guy you (in the media) can call at 6 a.m.," he said.

Silent majority

Duenas said the Arroyo administration's "much vaunted platform unease and concern" was a "value added" to Team Unity.

He cited a survey conducted by the administration showing that 60 percent supported "value creation" but was not taking sides in the coming elections. He said 30 percent identified themselves as pro-administration, and another 30 percent as pro-opposition.

"It shows that the silent majority is not interested in muddling up, but in moving this country forward. So we are focusing on that," he said.

Duenas reported the opposition's claim that Mr. Arroyo was a liability for Team Unity candidates. "We don't see that. For us, that is a myth. In the provinces, the response of the people is the opposite, just what the opposition has been saying," he said.

He also said Mr. Arroyo had maintained a solid network of support in the provinces that would boost Team Unity's aim of clinching a 12-0 victory.

No greenhorn

It is because it first time is has also a political campaign, but he's not exactly a political greenhorn.

He was the representative of the fifth district of Iloilo (Oton, for three terms until 2004, when he ran his, but swam to serve in the Cabinet.

His father, Ramon Duenas III, served his three terms as Oton congressman and is now his 4th elected term as mayor of Duenas City.

In 2004, when he was reaping his own battle for a third term in the House, Duenas helped campaign for President Arroyo in his provinces and other parts of the Visayas, which delivered a huge margin over her closest rival, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Duenas completed his early schooling in Cebu City and obtained a bachelor of arts degree in political science at the University of the Redlands in California.

He returned to the Philippines to study law at the Ateneo de Manila, where he also obtained a master's degree in business administration. He became a member of the bar in 1998.

Youngest

After graduating from the Ateneo, Duenas worked for a public relations firm, becoming the youngest member of the 11th Congress. He went on to win a second three-year term in 2001 and a third term in 2004.

In his 11th Congress, Duenas delivered three House committee seats—public order and security, public works, and dangerous drugs.

He was a committee of the group of junior congressmen called the "Spice Boys," together with Michael Defensor and Miguel Zubiri (now both Team Unity candidates).

Also during that time, he was elected to the secretary general of the Nacionalista People's Coalition, the party founded by Senator Gregorio Honasan and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

He is also an honorary member of the Philippine Military Academy and a reserve lieutenant colonel in the Air Force.

More tourists

The President appointed Duenas as tourism secretary in August 2004; he was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments four months later.

Duenas takes pride in his accomplishments in the three years that he has held the tourism portfolio.

"From a declining industry in 2004, we managed a 14.5 percent growth in tourist arrivals in 2005. This means we are outgaining the rebound (tourist arrivals of 7 percent in the Asia-Pacific and we are getting a big slice of the tourism pie (in the region)."

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4. Application and Testing fee; and

5. Duly accomplished application forms. The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.

Note: ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day.

Application Schedule: Monday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 nn; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Examination Schedules: 8:00 am-12:00 nn
March 06, 2007, April 13, 2007 and May 4, 2007

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Agri dep't food depots bring ...

From page A1

fresh and straight from the source at prices lower than in other markets.

At the BFT, for instance, carrots are sold at P35 a kilo, compared to P90 in other markets. Cauliflower goes for P20 against P40; tomatoes for P65 compared to P80 outside the BFT, and onions are at P40 compared to P50 in other places.

Beef is sold at P180 a kilo but P200 elsewhere, chicken for P75 less at P90, and tilapia at P75 as against P85 outside the BFT.

Tagaytay is the fourth DFT to start operations, following Batasan Hills, Quezon City (December 2006); Bacoor in Manila (December 2006), and Bocaue in Quezon City, which also started in December, like Tagaytay.

The deal among Lantian Multipurpose Cooperative of Tiaong, Quezon, is one of many suppliers benefiting from the BFT project conceptualized in 2005 by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Lantian chair Dennis Tandingan told the Inquirer that before the BFT came to be, the backyard livestock raisers sold their hogs live to traders for only P75 a kilo.

But with the assured market provided by the increasingly food-conscious Tagaytayans and the assurance denied to sell their products themselves directly to the market, which means they can now sell their meat in the BFT at P105 a kilo.

Expanded production

The BFT then came around and sells the meat at P120 a kilo, giving wholesalers and retailers a comfortable P20 margin because push sells at around P140 in other markets.

The BFT's income is used to finance its operations.

But more than the increased income, Tandingan said the Lantian members were more excited at the prospect of an assured market because this means that they could safely expand their production.

"With the BFT, we are now counting our earnings, whereas before, all that we received were our losses," Tandingan said in Filipino.

Lantian delivers almost 500 kilos of pork every week, equivalent to eight hogs weighing about 60 kilos each.

Besides taking care of the vegetable requirements of the BFT is the Rural Improvement Club-Barangay of Mendez-Bendan, Tagaytay, which grows organic vegetables on a 1,500-square-meter property as part of the municipal government's urban agriculture program.

Below-market prices

BFT president Gretchen A. Tambuli said the 20 member-families of the RIC used to sell their vegetables from farms to farmer-to-rural Consumer Village just to recoup their investments.

Tambuli said that with the BFT, RIC now has a regular outlet for its harvest of 117 kilos of organic lettuce, mustard leaves, cabbage and pechay. These are also sold at below-market prices because suppliers deliver their products themselves.

The lower prices at the BFT proved favorable even to residents of Barangay Sigtad and those from nearby areas.

The Barangay Sigtad BFT has been in operation for less than a month, but the weekend, which is open seven days a week from 5 to the morning up to 7 in the evening, is already bringing in as much as P15,000 on weekends and P20,000 on weekends.

The sales are generated on a 300-square-meter property that houses a P500,000 cold storage facility, which is the agriculture department's counterpart in the BFT project, while the vendors and suppliers occupy.

The Tagaytay municipal government took care of providing the site and furnishing the construction of the facility.

More BFTs planned

DFT Director Oscar Wenceslao Inocencio says that because of the brisk sales, the BFT is able to provide allowances to vine employees doing the selling, cutting and storage of the meat and vegetable products.

"We hope that we can remain this for the long term because we also want to be able to provide our consumers with high-quality products at low prices and people have really need that," Inocencio said.

The agriculture department plans to expand the BFT network to include Navotas, Western Bicutan in Taguig, Fairview in Taguig, Calamba (Calamba), Antipolo Hills (Binangonan), Ilagan (Mallorca), Sierkey Mountain (Manila), Sta. Mesa (Manila) and Pasay.

Market vendor Perla Bebo is one of many who hope that the BFT will be friendly prices will be in operation for a long time.

The 50-year-old Bebo said that because the BFT was so close to her home, she could get as many vegetables as she can in the morning with no capital, sell them during the day, and go back to the terminal to pay for what she took in the morning.

Bebo said this arrangement allowed her to sell more because she was no longer restricted by her meager capital.

She also saves on the cost of taking two rides to either the Pasig or Pasay public markets, not to mention the physical cost of lugging around 15 kilos of vegetables or so.

"Now, I can just walk," she said with a smile.

Mayor hits FVR 'meddling' in Tagaytay City politics

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TROUBLE BETWEEN THE RULING Lakas-CMD and President Macapagal-Arroyo's original party Kampi is brewing in Tagaytay City, with the incumbent mayor protesting the intervention of former President Fidel Ramos in the selection of the administration's supposedly candidate.

Mayor Abraham Tolentino said that while he was an original member of Lakas, Ramos had forced the selection of Avelino Rasanda, a deputized councilor in 2004, as the administration's candidate. Tolentino, who is seeking his second term as mayor, has endorsed ex-Kampi.

"My door is open to anyone who wants to help me," Tolentino said.

We said he would ask Mr. Arroyo to endorse the expiry of the incumbents—this principle that invests sitting officials to the contest for endorsement as administration candidates.

"He will not abandon the President," Tolentino said, adding that he had always been an ally of Mr. Arroyo's and that among the loyalists in Cavite, only Tagaytay and Bacoor had delivered victories to her.

According to Tolentino, Ramos threw him out of Lakas because of the latter's "personal grudge" against him and his sister Senator Pilar, a former mayor of Tagaytay.

"He respects him as a former President," Tolentino said. "He has a high stature not only here but also abroad, so he should not be meddling in local politics."

Tolentino also said Ramos had put up his own Lakas slates. The senior has his Kampi ticket composed of himself, his running mate and 10 councilors.

Gabriel Claudio, Mr. Arroyo's political adviser and chair of the administration committee dealing with the reelection bid, refused to take sides in the matter, confirmed that "one has also arisen in Tagaytay politics.

"There is a situation there. It's a little sticky," Claudio said in Malacañang. He said he hoped the problem would be ironed out over merienda.

He also said that as a former president and founder of Lakas, Ramos had "tremendous say" on which candidates to field.

CAMPAIGNING IN ASSUNTA

A gigantic picture of jailed independent senatorial candidate Gregorio Honasan stands in his stead at the launch of his Pwersang Masang campaign at Olivarez City's Rizal Park on Friday. Another military man, Mary Jo Armada Tolibaso, who is also detained on coup charges, is running for senator under the GO ticket.

Firm claims lawful ownership of mines

PESETO PRESS — THE PLACEHOLDER GROUP Metals Corp. (PGMC) yesterday said it was the lawful operator of two mining sites in Palawan.

"Citinickel is not the beneficial owner of the mine sites. Its attempt to oust PGMC via a unilateral agreement with Olympic Mines and Development Corp. is illegal and fraudulent, according to the decision of Malacañang," said Ramon Ang, PGMC chair.

Ang's remarks came after Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. (CMDC) said it was the beneficial owner of two mining sites in Palawan.

Citinickel is not the beneficial owner of the mine sites. Its attempt to oust PGMC via a unilateral agreement with Olympic Mines and Development Corp. is illegal and fraudulent, according to the decision of Malacañang," said Ramon Ang, PGMC chair.

Ang's remarks came after Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. (CMDC) said it was the beneficial owner of two mining sites in Palawan.

In an earlier business report, Citinickel had claimed to be the beneficial owner of the mine sites being operated by PGMC.

In April 2006, Olympic sought to end its operating agreement with PGMC.

Olympic then assigned its interest in the mine sites to Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. Then tried to oust PGMC from the mining sites.

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GMA's new mantra: 8 by '08 or 8 blessings in '08

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has a new mantra. "8 by 08," that is, eight blessings by 2008.

The President spelled out her policy agenda for the year in a speech at the ensuing anniversary for the 13 "most inspiring true love couples of the year" at the Bill Shell of dusk in Pasay City yesterday.

The eight items in the agenda are: Jobs creation, cost of living improvement, a strong peso, increasing investments, pro-poor education, health care/housing/welding homes, a green Philippines and a strong anticorruption campaign.

"Our goal this year is to invest in our people so that we can achieve eight blessings in 2008," Ms Arroyo said.

Mindful of why she was at the Mall of Asia, she threw in the goal of educating more than three million tourists this year to generate more jobs around the country.

The President said tourism growth was vital to the country's economic progress because one tourist arrival generated one job for the country.

She said the country was able to attract three million tourists last year, "five years ago, most is here more than three million."

She said many tourists wanted to come to the Philippines but the country did not have enough hotel rooms to accommodate them.

She said she had suggested to investors in Bohol that they put up bed and breakfast (B and B).

The President called for more local investments in tourism, saying entrepreneurs could avail of a P10 million micro-financing facility from the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Tourism Authority.

She said a strong campaign against terror was also needed to provide a better climate for tourism and investments.

"We should have a strong anti-terror campaign so that those with the most violent in the hearts of Pakikisi [Tasks]," Ms Arroyo said.

The Senate and the House versified the Human Security Act, or the anti-terror law, during a two-day special session that the President called last month.

Ms Arroyo said she will sign the new law in a "proper ceremony," justifying the landmark legislation she had pushed Congress into approving amid the global terror threats.

However, she said Congress had specified that the law may take effect only after the elections in May.

Those opposed to the law fear that the government would use it to suppress or harass the legitimate opposition.

SITE OF THE CRUCIFIXION: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is an ultra-sacred tourist destination within the walled Old City of Jerusalem. Here, archaeologists and clergymen in the Holy Land divide claims in a new documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus" to be aired today by Discovery Channel that contradicts major Christian tenets including the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. »

No reason to rewrite Christianity

» www.page A2

The title of the just released book of Jesus, which he co-authored with Charles Pellegrino, sums up the gist of the feature—"The Jesus Family Tomb: The Discovery, the Investigation, and the Evidence That Could Change History (HarperCollins, 2007)."

In the documentary, a tomb was found in suburb 10 meters(or found) caskets used to contain 10 remains. Six had inscriptions on them, namely, Jesus, Mary, Matthew, Joseph, Mary Magdalene and Judah.

According to the discovery website (www.discoverychannel.com), it is just archaeological advances, not biblical history, part historic science and part theological controversy.

It narrates the circumstances of the discovery, the process of interpreting the inscriptions, unveiling unspoken then Testamental scholars and the use of DNA testing leading to the scriptural assertions that the Lord "belonged to the family of Jesus of Nazareth."

CBCP reacts

The Catholic hierarchy through the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, issued an immediate reaction through the media: "It was true."

The CBCP argued that "Jesus" was a common name in the 1st century AD and it was coincidental that the name was inscribed on one of the ossuaries.

But that was precisely what is believed disproved. For the documentary, he sought the help of a respected statistician who did a study of the probabilities leading to the conclusion that the odds are at least 600 to 1 in favor of the tomb being the family tomb of Jesus. The odds is enhanced dramatically to 1 in

Team heads to US to plead nurses' case

DESPITE THE EMPHATIC ASSERTION BY THE US-based Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools that it would not accept Filipino nurses who passed the bold-tainted June 2006 board exams unless they retook portions of the test was final, four officials of rested interest groups will still leave for the US this morning to meet with CGFNS officials tomorrow.

PRC Chair Leonor Ramos told the Inquirer yesterday they would explain in detail to the CGFNS what happened last year and the steps they took to address the problem. She said they would also ask the CGFNS here to come up with its decision.

She said their explanation would be "somewhat of an appeal."

Days ago, PRC officials had announced they were not willing to question the credibility of a voluntary recall by the affected nurses.

But Ramos said yesterday the preparations had been put on hold in the meantime: "We will leave what to do after the [US] meeting," she said.

She is part of the team President Macapagal-Arroyo had created in an attempt to appeal the CGFNS decision.

Sandra Top Monte Nazareth will lead the team, which includes Association d'Union of Philippine Colleges of Nursing president Ma. Soledad Nathaniels and the university affairs officer of New Mexico president Renato Aquino. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Dishonest Abe

GIVEN HIS POLITICS, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF time before Shinzo Abe, elected prime minister of Japan just last September, would roll regional waves. Last Thursday, he did so, and in outrageous fashion. He told reporters that the hundreds of thousands of "comfort women" forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army in the 1930s and 1940s were not victims of abuse; they had entered the army's farrowed military brothels willingly.

"There was no evidence to prove there was coercion as initially suggested," Abe said. "That largely changes what constitutes the definition of coercion, and we have to take it from there."

No, we don't. Abe has been painted in the international press as one of Koizumi's darlings—the son of a foreign minister and grandson of a prime minister, destined for high office. In fact, he has very limited experience running, much less succeeding in, affairs of state; instead, he is the product of insidious politics and an extreme nationalism that refuses to apologize for Japan's behavior in its invasion of China not during World War II. He is popular in Japan in large part because he has taken a tough stance against North Korea; we still see whether the inevitable backlash from China, South Korea and even staunch allies like the Philippines—where thousands of women were repeatedly raped in the Japanese army's "comfort stations"—will change or confirm his countrymen's opinion of him.

But the truth of the comfort women remains does not lie in public opinion: it lies in the documented evidence, gathered especially in the last decade and a half, that paints a horrifying picture of an elaborate system of forced prostitution unprecedented in history. Some of the evidence comes from some of the soldier-rapists themselves, such as 67-year-old Yuuji Kaneko. "Whether in military brothels or in the villages, we raped without reluctance," Kaneko said in an interview on the 60th day.

After intense pressure from the international community, the Japanese government issued an apology of sorts in 1993; more than detailed expressions of remorse, however, has now been invalidated by Abe's bizarre disbelief. He flatly implies that to all the hue and cry coercion was merely suggested: it was not. It was alleged and then proven, again and again, with evidence that can meet the standard of any court of law.

But Abe mistakenly believes that the future of Japanese nationalism rests on a revision of the troubled history texts—a point of view that reflects Japanese self-doubt following the Japanese economic slowdown more than it does any latent aggressiveness in the Japanese character. But a mistake nevertheless. The countries ravaged by the Japanese army three generations ago only want a forthright apology and reasonable compensation for the victims; Abe's outrageous remarks place the solution even more out of reach.

Fateful Erap

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DEBATE BETWEEN senatorial candidates, even though the scope of discussion seems to have been unnecessarily narrowed to only economic matters. But hope springs eternal, and we are optimistic that even a limited debate would still prove useful, especially to voters desperate to go beyond the shallowness of TV ads and the one-dimensionality of slogans and posters.

The whole idea started when the opposition ran a full-page ad in the newspapers, disputing the Arroyo administration's sunny interpretation of economic indicators. Now that both the administration candidates and officials have countered with their own reading of economic trends, the issue is joined.

Only one thing: We are struck by the opposition's use of economic numbers from the Estrada years as the benchmark by which to judge the Arroyo administration's claims. In doing so, the opposition relinquishes the original, everyday vehicle and motivation—the ads used to frame the May elections, that it was a grudge match between the former president and the incumbent.

It isn't, as the opposition itself knows. But we guess some leaders, even a fearful, "tired attraction" to the deposed president, are hard to break.

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Prohibited election entertainment

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS ordered unauthorized candidate Ernie Maganto and a cable channel to explain why they should not be cited for contempt for airing last week a movie documentary hosted by Maganto on the Edsa Revolution of 1986.

Such act is presumably violative of the Fair Election Act which provides in its Sec. 6.8 that "no movie, cinematograph or documentary portrayed by an actor or media personality who is himself a candidate shall likewise be exhibited as a theater or any public forum during the campaign period."

Violation of this or many other provisions of the law is also a ground for disqualification of the erring candidate.

Maganto and the cable channel are not personalities who is remotely admired for his valor as an actor and director. I would say he is hated and detested by most of his colleagues in the industry as he is so unethical and unscrupulous that connived to have me subsequently protest that my testimonies as such are not per se made his public office. Nevertheless, I have to say that his exceptional qualifications do not exempt him from the operation of the law he may have violated.

As a member of the Supreme Court, I was the ponente opposition of a similar law that was sustained in 1992. Fortunately, my basic objections to it have been sustained with the adoption of the Fair Election Act that provides for more reasonable restrictions on the prohibitions there by implementing resolution of the Comelec, a registered candidate or political party making national election effect is given 120 minutes on TV and 180 minutes on radio for election propaganda. But subject to the above quoted Sec. 6.8.

I suppose Maganto will try to justify his act on the ground that he is seeking freedom of expression. But that freedom, like all freedoms (except the freedom to believe so long as it is not externalized) is not absolute. Its presence in this library is, it is subject to the police power for the protection of the public welfare and the preservation of private interests.

I believe that Sec. 6.8 of the Fair Election Act is valid. The obvious purpose of the prohibition is to equalize as much as possible the opportunities of the candidates in combatting their respective campaigns. Without it, entertainers would have the inherent advantage over their rivals who are less known although better qualified than many of them.

Money is important in opposition in political elections. A celebrity can get 1% less name propaganda than an obscure but brilliant bar topnotcher. Boxing Bernabe would have topped the 2004 senatorial elections were it not for Mar Roxas who made himself better known as "Mr. Palengke" while his incumbent counterpart Ed Ejercito Estrada was "Mr. Pogi." Jinggoy Estrada would have topped the 2004 senatorial elections were it not for Mar Roxas who made himself better known as "Mr. Palengke" while his incumbent counterpart Ed Ejercito Estrada was "Mr. Pogi."

Maganto's campaign is important in political elections. A celebrity can get 1% less name propaganda than an obscure but brilliant bar topnotcher. Boxing Bernabe

Jose Wright Diokno

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Hangaywhan

NOT TOO LONG AGO, I ATTENDED A HOLY Mass celebrated by a well-known archbishop who delivered a stirring homily. He said, "In the Old Testament, there are Ten Commandments, but in the New, our Lord Jesus Christ reduced them to two: love the God and love the neighbor. And whom do we consider as my neighbor?"

Going to primary (Matthew 25), Archbishop Oscar Cruz answered the Christian answer: we show love when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the prisoners.

Beyond the Gospel. But the unpoetic picture many beyond the Gospel and asked: Shall we just feed the hungry and not punish the greedy who deprived them of food? Shall we just provide clothing without chasing the robbers who stole the clothes? Shall we just visit the prisoners without bringing to justice the system who jailed them?

Reflecting on these questions after I served home that evening, I thought of Jose W. Diokno whose 85th birthday was observed last Feb. 26, and 20th death anniversary a day later on Feb. 27.

Diokno was a lawyer, a senator and founder of De La Salle Professional Schools—initiated the "Tondo Project" in Manila. He was also founder of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG).

At the same time, it also launched "Diokno on Tuesday" television series and "Law of the Filipino People" authored by Jose Manuel I. Diokno. This book compiled the older Diokno's messages on human rights and "all the way."

In the keynote speaker, I spoke not so much of Diokno the lawyer, the senator and the reformist as a guy in love. Diokno, I remembered him as the answer to the Bishop Cruz's question.

Defiant and competent. Jose Wright Diokno was a celebrated justice activist and science student. He was a lawyer who "exemplified the highest standards expected of statesmen and public servants. He easily exemplified the "fit, robust and competent" that I—as Chief Justice—had asked from every lawyer.

He topped both the CPA and the bar exams.

Diokno was a lawyer who "exemplified the highest standards expected of statesmen and public servants. He easily exemplified the "fit, robust and competent" that I—as Chief Justice—had asked from every lawyer.

He topped both the CPA and the bar exams.

After all, his place in history was to serve. He was brilliant, honest, eloquent and well-organized. However, his character could no longer have been of much service, he studied law—like the rest of his own sisters, health, suicidal passionate and career—to correct freedom in our land, to denounce the plunderers, to expose the poor and to make truth and justice prevail. For these reasons, he was jailed, incarcerated and kept under military confinement without being charged or tried, much less convicted.

More than being honest, Jose Wright Diokno was a person of moral courage. He was moved by immutable values and principles, not by politics or convenience. Indeed, he was a visionary leader of exemplary integrity.

Restoring heroes, and leaders. Aside from JWD, are there others who measure up to the requirements of courage, leadership and integrity? Certainly. Many of them are memorialized in the Wall of Remembrance built by the Bonifacio Aquino Foundation in Quezon Avenue near the corner of Edsa, Quezon City.

These heroes include Benigno Aquino, Gene Cabinian, Roberto Concepcion, Emilio Jones, Ninoy Mangubat, Jesse Quigon, Jill Reyes, Jaime Sin, Lorenzo Tañada, Claudio Teehankee and several others, all of whom, however, are already in the hall of fame.

But, Jovito R. Salonga, Restoring founder, he said that "a nation is measured by the quality of the men and women it honors." In our midst, are there living government leaders whom we present and look up to as heroes? Are there men, statesmen, role-models and personalities?

Let the readers, especially the Ayala Young Leaders Congress (YLC) delegates whom I met last Feb. 7, answer this question. Should there be another Diokno, Salonga, Tañada, Concepcion—or is there no one else to come to our minds since Ninoy died in 1983?

Comments are welcome at Antoniohangaywhan@hotmail.com

The greening of Bush

THE UNITED STATES IS USUALLY REGARDED AS AN environmental laggard, with President George W. Bush perceived as being little better than the head of a gang of artful polluters who do everything they can to obstruct global attempts to protect the environment. Of course, there is some truth in this characterization of America (and quite a lot in that of Bush), but the picture is not quite so black.

Indeed, the environmental movement—this most modern of social movements—began in the United States in the 1960s. The roots of America's "environmental movement" lie in the 19th century, when the damage wrought by the industrial revolution and the fragmentation of the natural landscape by individual property rights and resource-hoarding became apparent.

WORLD VIEW

Glenn Leggewie

But it was the publication in 1962 of the book "Silent Spring"—a polemic against the use of pesticides in agriculture—by the biologist Rachel Carson that jump-started the modern ecological movement. Carson drew on extensive field research and her own personal observations to show how consumer capitalism and a "promiscuous laissez" belief in the primacy of the market of life were economic growth. In Carson's wake, the "Woodstock" generation of the 1960s, with its Earth Days, soon began to organize a broad campaign which came to April 1970, around 20 million Americans rode to the streets to defend the environment.

In this new movement, the liberation tendencies of the New Left and the conservation tendencies of the traditional right became interwoven. Paul Ehrlich's bestseller "The Population Bomb" exerted an influence that later to this day. America's new-minted movement was soon exported to Europe and elsewhere—as one friend, the pungently Parisian, of the Left and the Greens, who were to become a force in their own right, and, on the other hand, the neo-fundamentalist groups like Earth First! and the Environmental Action Movement (EAM) or the lobbying groups like the World Wildlife Fund.

This consciousness managed to force the first environmental laws out of the conservative Nixon administration, the National Environmental Act of 1969, the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Clean Water Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. There is sense, the focus in America was on "green" issues (clean water, fresh air and biological diversity) rather than on the "brown" issues of ecological disaster, such as the Chernobyl or Bhopal disasters, which have played a dominant role in mobilizing Europeans.

America's influential Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also was established under Nixon. Environmentalist lawyers, lawyers and lobbyists who made sure that laws weren't just passed in Congress but also implemented in practice.

But the current Bush administration has been backing away in these laws of the 1970s from all directions. He approved oil exploration in closed nature reserves, and also environmentally fragile to suppress statistic evidence on climate change. Now, however, due to the surge in crude oil prices, even Bush has had to begin to consider alternative energy sources, and it won't be possible to limit them to nuclear power or reduced, which is popular among farmers, a few fresh initiatives.

Indeed, even Bush's own political base, the Christian fundamentalists, are becoming "green," pressuring the administration to quit the Kyoto Protocol because they believe that the environment must be protected just like science like "Re-theology" and evangelicalism the propaganda have become one of the hottest branches of the US environmental movement. "Greens" are diverse, while feeling awkward about support from this quarter, nonetheless find them useful allies.

Indeed, the greening of America is becoming a general proposition. Many Americans can only shake their heads as the energy lobbyists who surround Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, and for a long time now, a minority has been in favor of the Kyoto Protocol, which would limit the emissions of climate poisons. Catastrophic events like Hurricane Katrina have reinforced this stance.

All this has caused Bush at work to accommodate—to bit by bit to—the will of an overwhelming majority of Americans to succeed to energy. Moreover, although Bush has given recently repeated assurances that he is not aiming a change of heart, America's federal system helps the environmental movement a roadblock as powerful as the president, as "freedom" promotes neo-political initiatives in the state level and even within municipalities.

It is not just California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has recognized the signs of the times and who has presented himself as a "green" candidate, but also Bush himself is a pacemaker of All-American modernization again. Political climate change has also been brought about by people like Jesse Ginger, the president of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), whose 4.1-million members make it one of the largest environmental organizations. Ginger also heads the upside-different, a coalition of businesses, environmentalist groups, religious groups and local politicians who are demanding more energy-efficient jobs.

Even "green fairness" will actually become reasons in between, of course. But, in an ecological-driven quake, the United States might even regain its lost influence in the world. Those who disdain environmental concerns have been warned in the polls in large numbers: companies invest huge amounts of money in "green technologies" and are already producers for their climate-adverse policies, such as requirement of the Kyoto Protocol have long been supposed by some states—a boon for Siemens and European cities and municipalities.

As in the past, the effectiveness of these measures also mostly will depend on whether these impulses reach Europe and Japan, as well as the emerging nations like China and Brazil. It is time for the "Greens" everywhere to start seeing as ecological matters again—and, strange as it may sound, to look again to America for inspiration. Please fax: Klaus Nicolaus for Human Interest.

Claus Leggewie is director of the Center for Media and Interactivity at Giessen University, Germany, where he teaches Political Science.

Memory and explanations

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE TRAGEDY STRIKES, OUR INSTINCT IS to try to make sense of it. Especially when the tragedy comes at the tail-end of stories of "unbelievable events," the human mind's first tendency is to understand, and, failing that, to wonder why it had to happen to us, the victims.

When the brother-in-law died last week, we were all shell-shocked, silenced by disbelief and incomprehension. Just six months had passed since my sister's previous, my sister's first-born, and my brother's Manny had likewise passed on. What explains the series of deaths? What message is the higher power sending?

We were desperate to see explanation—or if there is, then it is too profound and numerous for our simple minds to grasp. When one of my cousins told another cousin that he was planning to undergo a battery of tests to find out why he would die suddenly, the response was, "What healing? He may need a change of life?" Is that the answer we are seeking? The age-old mantra of diet and exercise as a family whose hypertension, heart disease and diabetes are well-documented?

I could much prefer this explanation, though, to another one that someone far away proposed: that we are a family that is "cursed." I want to say to that person, "Do you know how much pain your words inflict?" But I suppose that we should be used to such insensitivity. I refuse to believe that God—to whom the professes to be so devout—would be that cruel and whimsical. That we would be the ones accounting for human cruelty and wickedness.

* * *

My family did undergo the healing session. Not because we were desperate for explanations, but because the next day, the three-day prayers was scheduled to a few hours of prayer-counseling.

Unfortunately, I didn't make it even to that truncated session because of a previous commitment. I regret that very much, particularly as I wasn't able to join them. As far as it matters for me, I would much rather abide by the adage that "there is no explanation." The explanation might surely our inclusion, under our doors, or pre-

vailing targets for our lifelong grief and anger. But they will not ease our loneliness, or make us miss the person less.

I happen to believe that our sister's requested healing session was for the benefit of the living. And for the sifted and the strength needed to carry on (as if we were having other options behind!) but rather as final meaning in the days, months and years that are left us, and despite the occasional bouts of sadness, loss and anger, the even resonances.

* * *

I'll lead us lack of solace from relatives and friends whose lives to ours I another tragedy.

By chance, I came to our brought home I read from the wake, determinedly throwing away leftovers every evening lest I succumb to the temptation of eating them. So when the mail to love hand before the cremation, we didn't see the envelopes, let alone didn't catch how other they were sent.

But by any love had the last laugh. As his material service, we all fought his urge to go unselfish and unburdensome, knowing how he hated unnecessary and expensive funerals. Cousins and nephews Mikko and Bill cousins, we had laughter jokes and audio-visuals full of pictures of Bo and his family at happier times. His friends from the service also sent us their condolences, but also their passing. In one purple frame from all of them, he had a picture in his athletic days. And we all realized, for the, we don't need pictures in behind!

His own explanation for the inexplicable causes in our lives is that we are all living out the script that man gave Eustace Rhett Rilke, which I happened upon recently. He's passing. I hope you find in his words some comfort and consolation, whatever or whomever it is you are mourning now.

* * *

All, poems unease to us lucky when you write, too early in your life. You might to wait and gather some and competence for a whole lifetime, and a long one if possible, and then, at the very end, you might perhaps be able to write ten good lines. For poems are not, as people think, simply emotions (one has more than early enough!)—they are experiences. For the sake of a single poem one must see many cities, many people and things, you must understand animals, must feel how birds fly, and know the gestures which small flowers make when they open in the morning. You must be able to think back to streets in unknown neighborhoods, to unexpected encounters, and to partings you had long seen coming, to days of childhood whose mystery is still unexplained, to mothers whom you had to hurt when they brought in a joy and you didn't pick it up (it was a joy meant for somebody else), to childhood illness that began so strangely with so many profound and difficult transformations, to days in quiet rooms, to mornings by the sea, to the sea itself, to seas, to nights of travel that rushed along high and flew and went flying with all the stars—and it still not enough that one may think all these things. You must have memories of many nights of love, each one different from all the others, memories of women screaming in labor, and of light, pale sleeping girls who have just given birth and lie closing. And it is not yet enough to have memories. You must be able to forget them when they are many, and you must have the immense patience to wait until they return. For the memories themselves are not important. Only when they have changed into our blood, into our glance and gesture, and are nameless, no longer to be distinguished from ourselves—only then can it happen that a moment very rare from the first word of a poem arises in their midst and goes forth from them.

* * *

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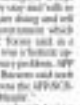
Militarization by other means



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SOLDIERS DIRECTING CHECKPOINTS, INTERDICTing commuters, and rounding up and interrogating students in various parts of the country have become so commonplace in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's regime that we take for granted their lawlessness. Its soldiers have a right to do these things?

Not being a lawyer, I can only ask questions. The constitution of the 1987 Constitution is clear enough as it pertains to constitutional underground, highly ordinary citizens. I want to be awake and the others around which it is woven whenever I am bothered by the actions of government. The Constitution is the social contract that binds us as citizens of a democratic nation. Every citizen should have a copy of the country's Constitution in his pocket.

There is a division of labor between the military and the police that is recognized in every democratic country. The police are the first line of defense against crime and other acts within communities that violate the peace of the public. Our Constitution states that each police force is "national in character and civilian in nature."

The same Constitution declares among its guiding principles and policies that "[c]ivilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the state. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory." I understand sovereignty to mean the power to govern oneself. To defend a country's sovereignty is to protect the nation against foreign aggression. To protect the integrity of the national territory is to protect it against forces that seek to dismember it. By this rule, one may understand the soldier's presence or soldiers in parts of Mindanao where secessionist movements operate. But what is the rationale for the presence of soldiers and police in the streets of Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City?

I quote from a report that appeared in the Inquirer (3/3/07): "The military said the deployment of soldiers in some areas of Metro Manila was part of civil military operations to combat kidnapping crimes since like persons can be used to finance terrorist activities." Is this a spokesperson thing. Because Gonzalez said the deployments, including going on area to monitor the crime and other illegal activities in depressed barangays. People are now to barangays where they stay and talk to residents and find out what is going on and to see if there there are programs of government which they can avail themselves of." Gonzalez said in a phone interview. Sorry, said the true whether appeared: considering the insurgency problem. AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said early deployments were normal as it was the AFP-PNP's constitutive "protect-the-people" mandate.

Protect them from what? Against whom? Against supposed communists? Sec. 18 (1) of the 1987 Constitution says that "[n]o person may be validly detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations." Last March 6, that no one can be punished for views random thing as a communist, or subversive. But to suppression, if Rhea Mendez is to be prosecuted for rebellion, on what? Lawyers assigned this belonged to the police.

There is room for this contagion. The Constitution states its general that the maintenance of peace and order is not the normal function of civilian authority, but of the military. Under certain exceptional instances when the government through the President, may call out the military. Art. VII, Sec. 18 provides: "The President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, or rebellion."

The last time Ms Arroyo invoked these Commander-in-Chief powers was on Feb. 24, 2006 when she issued Presidential Proclamation 1017 declaring a State of National Emergency. Recognizing clear and present danger, she said, the humans of our Constitution made their exercise subject to very stringent qualifications. The most important of these is the provision that restricts the multimandated validity of the Bill of Rights and declaration of martial law.

The Supreme Court held SP 1017 to be valid in order as it was an exercise of the calling out power, "to prevent or suppress lawless violence," but struck it down as unconstitutional insofar as it purported to grant to the President the power to take over any business affected by the emergency. Even if no other provisions of the Bill of Rights, including those not related to lawless violence, and to impose curfew.

The government is not to be trampled, towers and cities to restrict the engagement of the soldiers in the everyday maintenance of peace and order in our communities? Or does it, when it is under the threat of "supporting and promoting lawless violence"?

If one goes by the 1987 Constitution alone, there can be no doubt that while such drastic measures as declaration of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus are left to the discretion of the President, the military has overstepped its mandate. My law is that the executive and legislative departments will mind "The Statute Book of Art of 2007"), is entitled precisely to contemplate the possibility of a state of emergency. In such a state of emergency, the government has the ground for the interpretation of our constitution.

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PANGLAO

Center of marine biodiversity (2)

A STUDY OF THE WATERS OFF BOHOL PANGLAO ISLAND IN 2004 AND 2005 found some 300 new crustacean species and 2,000 new mollusk species.

Covering 10,000 hectares, the study yielded more than 1,200 species of decapod (crustacean) crustaceans and some 6,000 species of mollusks. In contrast, the 5,000-hectare Bonaire Marine Park in the Netherlands has only 340 species of decapods and 1,024 species of mollusks.

The research has some startling results on biodiversity even in parts of this country. The Sulu Sea is said to have more crustacean species than Panglao, and Tubbataha Reefs in the Sulu Sea has more species than Bonaire.

Panglao Island is also considered one of the richest areas in the world for coral species.

Dr. Peter Ng, director of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore, and Dr. Philippe Bouchet, professor at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, led the study.

Ng and Bouchet spoke to Inquirer Research Manager Lito Banayo about the study and its significance.

Nomenclature convention

THE INTERNATIONAL Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is a worldwide organization dedicated to the sustainable use of natural resources.

The IUCN is in the process of preparing the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, which combines under one fully consistent code governing the classification of scientific names for animals. The organization also is also considering the inclusion of nomenclatural problems brought to its attention in order to achieve internationally acceptable solutions.

Its secretariat, housed in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, oversees the publication of the quarterly journal, Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature, which publishes proposals, opinions and suppressed names that need the decision of the Commission as well as lists and bibliographies.

Founded in 1948, IUCN has 10 members from 23 countries. It is a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions, along with over 170 other international scientific organizations. **Rafe Pedroso, Inquirer Research**

Q & A with biologists Philippe Bouchet and Peter Ng

Ball of the Town (BotT): *If the 1,500 to 2,000 new mollusks have not all been named, how can you be so sure that the number of species will be as high as 5,000?*

Philippe Bouchet (Bouchet): This is an "educated guess" based on observations of various experts on different groups of mollusks. The families of land-dwelling mollusks (collectively "snails") are very well-known and it is exceptional to find a new species of country or even of an island.

Just how families are only thrown up the iceberg of mollusk diversity. Most species of mollusks are small (often the smaller than an millimeter) so they usually remain unnoticed. In many cases, anatomy are very poorly known.

By instance, we estimate that the Panglao expedition sample will cover the species of Cerithiidae, mostly in the size range of 2-10 mm, and 50 percent of these are new. And this is just one of the families of micromollusks.

Although the detailed study of the complete is still in progress (and will take many more years), we investigate that the Panglao expedition sampled—conservatively—300 species of turrids, and 25-50 percent of them may be undescribed.

BOT: *Why do you say that the "sea" is but a worldwide governing body or organization charge of that?*

Bouchet: There exists no international Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) that regulates how new species should be described. But this body does not rule or decide whether this or that is actually new. Given the numerous diversity of animal life on this planet, I think there are 1.5 million species described), a governing body would need to have hundreds of specialists in taxonomy.

In fact, when a scientist thinks he or she has a new species, he or she sends an article for publication to a scientific journal. The editor of that journal will, depending on the editor, send it for review to two other scientists. In principle, the reviewers are specialists, the editor is asking the reviewers to the question whether who say accordingly amount for manuscript.

By instance, a reviewer may find that an important character has not been properly described or illustrated, rendering the evaluation of the new species difficult.

After this process, the revised manuscript will be published, and the name of the new species will then be "available". This does not mean, though, that the new species is undisputed. Further research may reveal that the author had misunderstood a biological fact. By instance, he or she may have described as new a female of a species that was known from male only. Or he or she may have described as new a species that was known from another locality, but the specimens may belong to a species with a wide distribution.

BOT: *What exactly are new species named? Are the specimens taken to a museum with an extensive collection and then compared with existing specimens in order to find out if they are indeed "new"?*

Bouchet: Yes, the specimens are taken to museums or institutions or to expert for thorough research. By comparison, museums and institutions with extensive collections and then compared with existing specimens in order to find out if they are indeed "new".

Ng: Museum collections are taken to museums or institutions or to expert for thorough research. By comparison, museums and institutions with extensive collections and then compared with existing specimens in order to find out if they are indeed "new".

Bouchet: Yes, the specimens are taken to museums or institutions or to expert for thorough research. By comparison, museums and institutions with extensive collections and then compared with existing specimens in order to find out if they are indeed "new".

INQUIRER Mindanao

Young war survivors get schooling

By Jaydee Zante
Pagbi Magsindikato

HER EYES BEAMED WITH pride and joy as her name was called to receive the award for "Best Learner." She is among the beneficiaries of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program in Pagbi, once a war-stricken area in Maguindanao.

Gina Ingal, 16, was on her second year at the Campo High School in Pagbi in 2002 when the siege on the Liguasan Marsh took place. She dropped out of school as her family fled to leave the area to avoid getting caught in a crossfire between government soldiers and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels.

Although she has family returned after the conflict, Gina, the eldest in a brood of four, didn't get a chance to continue her education as she had to help her parents in farm work.

A rare opportunity came in April last year, when the Notre Dame of Midsel University (NDMU), which is based in Koronadal City, introduced the ALS. The school was inspired by St. Maximilian Chumpagnat's passion to reach out and serve the poor. (Champagnat is the founder of the Marist Brothers—the largest Order within the Marist family.)

Extensive service

The Champagnat Community College (CCC), a community extension arm of the NDMU, went to Pagbi to carry the program. A total of 602 people—all high school dropouts—were the beneficiaries.

The move was achieved upon the recommendation of local education and local government officials. With a total population of about 15,000, it was among the most severely affected by the military offensive in the Liguasan March in 2002.

Dr. Aimee Isnad, coordinator of the Education Development Center Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EDC-EQuALLS) project, identified Pagbi as a beneficiary, according to Agnes Reyes, CCC executive director.

Hadja Abdulkarim Langcuno claimed that about 70 percent of the youths in his town stopped going to school during the war. They remained late but the home-school distance, financial constraints, and a fragile peace and order prevented them from attending classes.

The ALS, along with the Marist Technical Training Program (MTTP), Pana Trenches Program and the 1st Farmer College, is among the CCC's extension service projects. The US Agency for International Development provided funding through its EQuALLS project.

Top priority

In the early years of the ALS program, the CCC had met difficulty in promoting education in Pagbi. A number of barangay leaders were illiterate, it found out.

A baseline survey conducted by the NDMU showed that of the 902 ALS beneficiaries, 26 percent reached third or fourth year high school, 50 percent were dropouts, and 14 percent were no more first or second year.

On their functional level, 35 percent of them were in the lower elementary, 28 percent in basic, 24 percent in advanced elementary and only 13 percent were in secondary.

The information only showed the need to improve their learning competencies and social needs, according to the CCC. The ALS, it said, would enhance not only their knowledge but also provide the means for voter formation, leadership capability, political maturity and socioeconomic growth.

Community learning centers (CLCs) were put up in eight barangays—Campo, Damalang, Damalasak, Kilalo, Poblacion, Inalek, Salud and Ishig—where skill sessions and other activities were held. Each CLC served as a classroom, library and venue for recreation, training and other socio-cultural activities.

Instructional managers (IMs) were hired to manage the centers.

Jolome Mastawal, who was adjudged the best instructional manager, says she enjoys helping fellow Muslims get their education and skills. An education graduate in one of the private schools in General Santos City, she receives a monthly salary of P6,000—more than enough to make both ends meet, considering the standard of living in Pagbi.

The Damalang Learning Center, where Mastawal served as an IM, was chosen the best center.

Hilarion Langcuno said that with the help of the CCC, the municipal government wanted to instill in the minds of its residents the utmost importance of education in changing the local socioeconomic landscape. After 28 months, he said, the residents began to appreciate the vital role of education in improving their lives.

With a total budget of only about P2.13 million, the ALS program was implemented in two phases. The first, covering April to July 16, 2006, focused more on education, "capacity building" for IMs and other stakeholders, and the construction of the learning centers.

During the second phase from July 16, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007, the learners were the top priority.

Due to the impact and success of the project, more out-of-school youths were encouraged to join the course.

At present, 147 learners are preparing to take the government's Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test and another 217 for the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

Initial capital was also released while interested residents and Dapalingo were disallowed to open learning site to start the livelihood project.

The CCC is determined to continue the project for the next three years. It has also identified its livelihood and income-generating projects to help beneficiaries once while they learn.

On Recognition Day, Feb. 15, as the Regis Multi-purpose Building, Tota Corbar, ES-ME chief of the Office of Education, pledged to continue supporting the ALS program.

Eleanor Tutor, program specialist of the Concordia Foundation, vowed to help provide funds, training sessions and facilities for ALS graduates who want to take short vocational and technical courses.

USAID officials led by Tom Crocker (third from left), USAID chief of office of education, William Foster (center), chief of party of USAID EQuALLS project Phase 2, and Pagbi Mayor Abdulkarim Langcuno (standing, second from right) visit the learners and community leaders at Damalang Learning Center, shown as the first learning center in Pagbi, Maguindanao. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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THE LIGUASAN MARSH

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Across the NATION

Dy, Albano clans link up to defeat Padaca

DELFIN ALBANO, ISABELA—THE DYS AND THE Albanos, the two dominant political clans in Isabela, have joined forces in a bid to dislodge Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca in the May 14 election.

Former Sen. Faustino Dy Jr., son of Isabela political patriarch Gov. Faustino Dy Sr. who ruled the province for 22 years and Rep. Rodolfo Albano III announced on Friday their "unconditional support" to support each other in the elections.

The alliance gubernatorial bid is supported by the Nationalist People's Coalition, on Friday reinstated the forbidden reelection of Albano III, provincial chair of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino. Both NPC and Kampi are members of the administration coalition.

Isabela Rep. Anthony Miranda, Kampi spokesperson and regional head, also attended the affair.

Padaca, however, shrugged off the alliance of the Dys and the Albanos.

"Even since my partnership with Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy began even before 2004, our priorities has always been to focus on our own plans, not on others' [plans]," Padaca said in a text message to the Inquirer.

The gubernatorial fight here will be a repeat of the fight between Dy and Padaca in 2004. In that election, Padaca remained Dy and ousted the latter's aide in the province.

The alliance between Dy and Albano bolstered reports here that the former governor would team up with Albano's brother, incumbent "Tonypet" Albano, as his vice governor.

Representative Albano and Tonypet Albano are sons of Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr.

Ceres Mayor Fernando Cortejad, Lilan CMD Cagayan Valley secretary general, said the party expected the alliance of the Dys and the Albanos.

"We are not keen on supporting former Governor Dy. We are instead getting our support on Governor Padaca despite her being a member of the Liberal Party's Bolito ruling," Cortejad said.

In Cagayan, prison lovers and newspaper columns hitting politicians appeared in the province in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

A congressman, who is seeking reelection in the third district, lamented the use of nude love letters and a column in a Metro Manila-based tabloid to destroy his name.

The congressman denied allegations that he was supporting left-wing groups and that he was asking for pork barrel to buy guns and bullets.

He called it all the tabloid columns that featured an actor that seemed to be a look-alike of the congressman joining leftist groups in his native Tuao town. *Nikko-net Sinaya Ilocandia and Zenaida Calalo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Girl, 7, seeks conquest of Puerto Princesa Bay

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"I can also do that!"

These were the words of Ana Ramona "Nicko" Balotaya after watching a 9-year-old boy cross the Mandaluyong Bay in October last year.

Balotaya, an Ilonggo in her friends, was only 6 years old when Justin Daniel Justo crossed Mactan Strait last year and succeeded in the boy's feat.

Her father, Dante, said she would not forget it and had dares they wanted to do in the water.

Dante will try to swim the Puerto Princesa Bay today on the occasion of the city's 110th founding anniversary.

Dante, now a Grade 2 student at the Palawan State University, came to myself, if not romana. Another time would it now prepare to conquer the more than 5-km stretch of the Puerto Princesa Bay from Barangay Sta. Lucia to the Bay Walk area in Barangay San Pedro, just a few meters from the Puerto Princesa Sea Port.

As part of her preparation, she crossed the 2.5-km stretch between Isla de Cebu to the Bay Walk last Dec. 31.

Juggling at a time of 1 hour, 12 minutes and 30.27 seconds, Dante—together with her trainer, Mr. Pancho Princesa Bantamweight Short Swimming Team (PPBSST)—braved strong winds, waves and current that made their swim more difficult.

"At first, the water was like swimming inside a washing machine," PPBSST coach Jimmy Egot said.

"It was so difficult that the team was hardly moving during the first 30 minutes," he added.

Swimming with Dante were General Castillo, a third year high school student of Palawan State University; Aldo Pinpid, Anna Pagtali, Arthrix Petosa and Jessa Silawan—all students of Palawan National School.

They have been consistent medalists in swimming competitions.

The swim was originally scheduled last Dec. 6, to time for the final day of the city's patron saint, the Immaculate Conception, but it was put off because of technical problems.

Born on Nov. 6, 1999, Dante is the youngest of three children of Dante and Cecilia Dalabajan.

Her two sisters are also into swimming. She was only 4 years old when they joined a "Summer Learn to Swim Program" here, about the time when her father was still working in Cebu.

Since then, they learned to love the sport and excelled in it. Ate, 11, studies at the Palawan Pentecost but was unable to join the swim. Her younger sister, Jake, 8, made it to the Milmaroyan regional athletic meet after last year.

Dante first entered her mental ordeal in an equestrian competition in 2004 here when she was only 4 years old.

Last year, she brought home 5 silver medals when she joined the Southern Tagalog Amateur Swimming Association Junior Meet 2006 held in Calapan City.

DYDBS with her roommates after their swim in preparation for Dante's conquest of the Puerto Princesa Bay. CONTRIBUTED

It was also her first competition outside Puerto Princesa, according to her father.

Despite her hectic schedule in training, Dante manages to maintain her academic excellence since promoted in 2002 where she has consistently been an honor student.

She got a 99 percent mark in the School Readiness Test administered by her school, and she got an overall rating of Gifted Slowly.

"She knows what she wants to do and she has focus," Dante said of his youngest daughter. "She always does even those when we expected of her."

Aside from swimming, Dante, who wants to become a doctor, is also fond of reading books and playing computer games. *Meredith Joy Tebo, Contributor*

THE PLANNED route of Dante's swim in the Puerto Princesa Bay. It's a route estimated to be 5 km.

Court case key to bid vs illegal online gaming

A CASE PENDING AT A REGIONAL TRIAL court in Angeles City could determine the fate of the government's campaign against illegal Internet-based gambling operations that are gaining popularity.

Pending in court is a case filed by the National Bureau of Investigation, on behalf of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., against British Orient Virtues International Co. and TransGlobal Pacific Airways.

The case was filed after the NBI, in February last year, raided online gambling activities allegedly being run by the two companies at a hangar inside the Clark economic zone.

Just by 800 special agent Rendro Marangu, the raid resulted in the confiscation of computer and online gaming paraphernalia that the two companies were.

But shortly after the progress of the case after a court quashed the NBI's request for a search warrant and an Angeles City prosecutor's assessment ruled that the laws against illegal gambling do not punish Internet gaming.

The case is in the care of Judge Jose Mesa of the RTC Branch 57 in Angeles City.

Marangu said the Department of Justice has recommended an appeal on the quashing of the search warrant that was used in the raid.

Roundup

NPAs kill cop, ex-cop

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspected communist insurgents shot dead a policeman and an ex-policeman in separate attacks in Masbate and Sorsogon. Six of the gunmen attacked Senior Insp. Rolando Mendoza in Mobo in Masbate on Friday, then, Bicol, Inspector Mendoza said. The gunmen took Mendoza's pistol and his personal belongings before fleeing. In the second attack, a motorcycle-riding gunmen shot dead retired policeman Cipriano Cachuela in Bulan, Sorsogon. *Jimmy Laurian, Inquirer Southern Luzon and AFP*

Car thieves shoot cop dead

LAOAG CITY, Philippines—Suspected car thieves shot dead a policeman in an ambush along the National Highway in Barangay Nangalisan here on Friday.

The four suspects, on board a black Honda car, fled after one of them killed PO3 Alfredo Lumbala, 53, in the brutal 7 a.m., according to eyewitness. The officer happened to be the police dragnet on motorcycle at the time he was killed, police said. All cases of car theft were reported in the adjoining Ilocos City and Municipal of Laoag. *Noelito Obispo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

More tourists in Leyte

ORMOC CITY—The number of tourist arrivals in this town and city increased by 500 percent last year, according to tourism officials. Tourism officer Rodgin Sanchez said the number of local tourists increased to over 1,000 in 2006 to 27,750 last year. The number of foreign visitors also rose to 1,100 in 2006, up from 110 two years ago, Sanchez said. He said most of the tourists went to exhibit dedications in Barangay with Mountain gun town in the Pacific extinguishing more tourists than the other town. *Jun Aviso, Inquirer Visayas*

1M tourists a year in Aklan

AKLAN has the potential to attract a million tourists a year with additional direct flights from foreign countries, Rep. Lorenzo Legaspi said. In a statement, Legaspi said Aklan could establish direct flights from Korea to Malay would further boost the arrival of tourists, the top tourism in Boracay, in the province. She said last year, Aklan earned P16.2 billion income from tourism. "Imagine if Aklan had other tourism potential and efforts to our condition efforts as it was. The province and its people will have an economic boost that should improve our quality of life of tourism services, as well as the living conditions of the people," he continued said.

7 die in road crashes

CEBU CITY—Seven people were killed while 11 others were injured in two separate motor vehicle accidents in Cebu late Friday and yesterday dawn. A truck collided with a light truck in Barangay Cinagpo-an, Dalaguete, Cebu, some 51 km north of Cebu City, at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, killing two persons and injuring five others, in Minglanilla. It has boarded Cebu City, a pedestrian lying a group of friends, and into a 40-meter deep ravine, resulting in the deaths of two of the passengers. Police said the person in the pickup had lost control from a motorway party in Cebu City. *Jeanne Rayalacan, Inquirer Visayas*

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NEWS

Comelec OKs 37 Senate bets, drops 42 others

By Jeannie Aning

THE COMMISSION ON Elections has approved the senatorial candidacies of 37 people, at the same time declaring 42 others as nuisance candidates.

In Resolution No. 7932, all six Comelec Commissioners voted on Friday to "give due course" to the certificates of candidacy filed by 3-6 people running under 13 registered political parties and three others running as independents.

Among them declared nuisance candidates were Jerome Jamero, an alumnus de Manila University professor who claimed to represent the gay community, and engineer Theodore Aquino, a cousin of Taclan Rep. Benjy (to "bayaw" Aquino II) who claimed to represent overseas Filipinos. Also dropped from the list were those described as "habitual blow," namely Orlando Abistania, Eduardo Plazmiano, Chavy Cudlerguia, Daniel Magtira, Manuel Pe, Francisco Tejano and Canuto Tayat.

Those who made it to the official list were:

- Ebreong Bagong Lipunan: Jaime Cayetano, Rhidhan Chavez, Antonio Estrella, Oliver Lozano, Edgardo Orpilla, Ruben Rocito and Victor Wood;
- Nationalist People's Coalition: Francis Escudero, Loren Legarda, Vicente Sotto III, Tessie Oreta;
- Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan: Aquilino Pimentel III;
- Lakas-CMD: Michael Defensor, Vicente Magsaysay, Cesar Montano, Prospero Pichay Jr., Ralph Recto, Luis Singson, Juan Miguel Zubiri;
- United Opposition: Pedrito Lucas, Jolbe Omarba, Antonio Trillanes IV;
- Liberal Party: Benigno Aquino III, Francis Pangilinan;
- Ang Kapatiran Party: Shamsi Buentog, Esteben Dawaba, Adrian Sison;
- Alyansa Demokratikong Sosialista: ;
- Bahaullan ng Mahayang Pilipino: Jokar Arinto;
- Nacionalista Party: Alan Peter Cayetano, Manuel Villar Jr.;
- Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino: Ethan Ilo Angara;
- Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas: Jamahl Kiram III;
- Philippine Green Republican Party: Felix Cantal; and
- Independents: Anna Dominique Coseteng, Richard Gomez, Gregorio Honasan.

The commissioners invoked the body's power to determine whether or not a candidate was a "nuisance," saying they were mindful of the dignity that must be accorded the office of a senator, the minimum qualifications set by the Constitution and election laws, the magnitude of the responsibilities of a senator, as well as the candidates' capability to wage a nationwide election campaign.

"There are indications that various certificates were filed to put the election process in mockery or disrepute, or to cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of names of the registered candidates or by other circumstances or acts which clearly demonstrate that the candidate has no bona fide intention to run for the office for which the certificate had been filed and, thus, prevent a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate," the commissioners said.

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Project aims to encourage shoppers to care for the environment while earning cash at the same time

NO MEAT or vegetables are sold in this market. Instead, customers trade in their garbage for a chance to make money and do their part in cleaning up the environment. CONTRIBUTION

Unique waste trading mart opens at the mall

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IN A UNIQUE REVERSAL OF ROLES, customers of a market that opens only once a month at the SM City Fairview in Quezon City are the ones who stand to make money...and from garbage at that.

Beginning Feb. 10, a waste trading market opened for business at the mall's parking lot every last Saturday of the month.

In the waste trading market, people can transact business with recycling companies. They can exchange scrap paper or cardboard for bath tissue, tissue, table napkins, bond paper and notebooks. They can also trade in empty ink and toner cartridges for quality remanufactured ones while plastic bottles and plastic scraps can be exchanged for plastic household items like hangers, basins, pails and bowls.

Customers can also trade in their used lead acid batteries or car batteries for coupons which could then be exchanged for cash.

A CUSTOMER exchanges her scrap paper for bond paper, notebooks and other paper products.

Environment-friendly

Liza Silorio, SM Supermalls assistant vice president for operations, said they launched the waste trading market as part of their effort to prepare their malls as "environment-friendly."

"We (have) solid waste management, clean water and clean air campaigned in a mall set-up," Silorio told the tourists.

The project, she added, was being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Business for the Environment.

Silorio said participating recycling companies would buy junk electrical equipment and old or broken appliances; used lead acid batteries from cars, voltage regulators and busted rechargeable lamps; polyethylene bottles and other plastics; aluminum and tin cans; and used ink and toner cartridges.

"The market also serves as a drop-off area for things that have no value but are considered hazardous such as polystyrene and styrofoam scraps, and junk cell phones and batteries," she added.

According to her, representatives of the DENR will also conduct mini-lectures to educate the public on the importance of waste segregation.

"Our goal is to help the country in the reduction of garbage through recycling," Silorio said.

Make money from garbage

The waste market is expected to help raise the public's awareness of how to make money from garbage, she added.

"So far, people have been very receptive to our project, expressing curiosity on how we do it and a willingness to participate," Silorio said.

Mandeep Sreenan, EMB Eco-Society's purchasing coordinator—one of the participating recycling companies in the waste trade market—said they brought old computer parts and accessories like monitors, central processing units (CPUs), printers, wires and cables, and compact discs at prices ranging from P10 to P120.

"We dismantle, sort, pack and export these old computer units and other appliances such as televisions, microwave ovens and refrigerators," Sreenan said. Used lead acid batteries, on the other hand, could be sold for P500 each. These are batteries used in automobiles, emergency lights and industrial equipment, according to Steve Ollendala of Philippine Recyclers Inc., another participating firm.

Proper disposal

"It is important for everyone to know that improper disposal of lead acid batteries can contaminate water supply," Ollendala said, warning that the batteries' lead content could cause diseases and physical defects.

Empty ink cartridges at the market sell for P20-P500, depending on the printer model. "We inspect and test the cartridges before shipping them to our plant in Subic," Lyle Lorenzo, marketing manager of YEARC Trading, said.

Garcia said the used cartridges would be dismantled, cleaned, refilled and refabricated at the Subic plant.

SM Supermalls officials said waste trading markets would be held on March 17 at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas City and on April 14 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

"We want the waste markets to be a regular sight in our malls so encourage shoppers to help the environment while earning cash at the same time," Silorio said.

MetroBriefs

3-year-old girl killed in Pasay fire; father injured

A PARAMAN carries Sancarcia's body.

A BIG MORNING fire broke out in a residential compound in Pasay City yesterday, killing a 3-year-old girl and injuring her father. An investigation was still underway yesterday afternoon on the cause of the blaze that started in Mike Cardia's house on P. Santos Street in Malibay, Pasay. The fire, which became active at 10:15 a.m. yesterday, killed his daughter, Samantha, who sustained severe burns all over her body, according to Pasay City fire investigator Jeanette Dias. Supt. Linda Mendoza.

Another Pasay blaze that morning, authorities said, also claimed the life of one of the victim's daughters. Initial reports from Pasay fire investigators said the blaze began inside Alvin's room on the second floor of the house before spreading to the other rooms. The compound's firefighters were able to put out the fire at 10:45 a.m. Damage to property was placed at P500,000.

Jaime M. Laurio

QC protecting kids' rights

THE QUEZON City government has created a welfare body to strengthen the implementation of children's rights, particularly minors who are in conflict with the law. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. created the Local Council for the Welfare of Children, which would serve as the umbrella organization mooring all program components for children in the city, during an organizational meeting last week. Belmonte, the chief of the council, named Business Permit and Licensing Office chief Pacifico Magbanua as executive director of the council. Belmonte also tasked Magbanua to coordinate the activities of the council's network that the functions of children committees do not overlap.

Regina C. Ong

Makati City all set for Fire Prevention Month

THE MAKATI City department will conduct house-to-house inspections in the city to look for fire hazards and identify problem areas in the hope of improving its response time to fires. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has ordered city fire chief Rolly John Kimberg Jr. to survey the barangays areas among the city's 33 barangays in the conduct of the inspections. Binay said these areas include the Manila compound in Comelec, Laperal compound in Guadalupe Nuevo, the stretch of Metro 4-1 in Pio, and the alleys in Barangay Singkamas, where houses stand close together. "We should prioritize these areas in our inspections. The structures in these places pose a very high risk for fire hazards and life-threatening," Binay said in a statement released the other day. He also directed barangay officials and the department of engineering and public works to assist in the inspections.

DJ Yap

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whose remittances contribute to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Ex-DH wins seat in Italian town council

By Erwinan Cuna and Kurtz Jose B. Pineda

IN POLITICS, THE PHILIPPINES AND ITALY are worlds apart. Unlike in the Philippines, a campaign season in Rome, Italy, is not star-studded. There is no cross-crossing of partylines. No campaign jingles. No circus.

But there is one thing in common: Both Filipino and Italian politicians spend a lot to get elected.

Take it from businesswoman Norma Macalindong, a 46-year-old Batangueña based in Rome. She was elected councilor or councillor, representing the migrants community in Municipio 2 in Rome, only last December.

But Macalindong says she only spent "some thousands" to oil her campaign during the December polls for regionals.

"At first, I only stayed home while an ongoing counting was held," she tells the Inquirer in an immediately Batangueño accent. "My (ex-) employers were the ground pickers and rented vehicles to fetch the voters."

She had only managed to rent several seats handing out her fliers and posters, she says. (In Southern Quezon, people call it *upa*.)

"I was startled," she tells the inquirer in a phone interview. "My colleagues were rather telling me that I would probably lose my bid since my opponents were literally courting the voters when after I ended only on one shake (their hands)."

She refuses to reveal how much she had shelled out for her candidacy, except to say "It was what any birth" compared to others.

2 Filipinos

The local elections in Rome were held on Dec. 3 wherein she garnered the highest votes among the Filipino candidates. She and her winning colleagues were nominees-elect for days before.

Municipio 2 consists out of 28 contested seats. Two of the seven seats went to Filipino women. Macalindong was one of them.

Elected real women is also accomplished for the other municipios were Jennifer Ramores for Municipio I; Bonnie Ramos for Municipio V; Rachel Cantoveros Dolor for Municipio VI; Gerardo Dolor for Municipio VII; Pia Gonzales for Municipio IX; and Domenico Salvatore for Municipio III.

As councilors, they play an important role in the review and active formation of policies for foreign residents. They help the local government in drafting plans targeted at delivering the rights due for migrants.

She being president of Municipio Only, an organization of Filipino businessmen, most of them store owners, in Piazza Manzini, another lively scheming.

"I am actually a mother to most Filipinos here—helping them process their papers for business and staying permits," she says.

"My fellow Filipinos and other Italian officials enabled me to run to further my service to the community. They say that I have a great chance of winning, having established good relations with other Filipinos and people from other races."

Joining politics, however, was not in her to-do list when she went to Rome in 1986 at the age of 26. She was first a domestic helper turned businesswoman, and now a politician.

11 children

Orphan from day at the municipal hall, she could only trace to her father affidavits debunking on various (non-)relevant matters.

"I was actually a difficult dog," she recalls. "I had to study all the ABCs to at not to look stupid, although I could speak Italian."

She is a mother of 11 children, seven of whom are living with her in Rome, while four are in the province raising their own families. "There was no luck for me in the Philippines so I decided to take chances abroad," she recalls.

On her first few months in Italy, she dreamed and recalled those early days of Filipinos (read: and she) arriving in the Italian capital to find employment.

Separated from "the rest" of the Philippine women of a one-stop shop, reader, life-under for the average Filipina. The poor especially with his endless cravings for food, from the chips and crackers for merienda to canned goods and instant soups during supper, she says. And if you are long before Macalindong took matters of this, strongly striking up Roman's love national food here in Rome.

Macalindong's store offers various goods from rubber slippers to dried goods to bathtub dye, and many Filipino products, like husband, Jesus, a driver in Batangas even followed her in Italy to help run the store.

"Sampu tayo, we were here now. Seven Filipinos, I employed more than Filipinos although, of course, Filipinos prioritize what we sell," she says.

Selling soon became the couple's main livelihood.

Business Pinoys

"This is all for my children," she says. "I have many children and I make even the night-watching spot to ensure their future. With the store, I do hope to fund them and also send them to decent schools." When she's not down to the store, Macalindong's in her take over.

But the business avenue was not as easy as she imagined, she says. "It was definitely a hard endeavor, with people trying to pull you down, perhaps because of envy."

In 1989, Macalindong completed her high school twelve months and was finally granted citizenship to operate business from the Camera di Commercio. "I was scheduled for a year and four months of life still selling goods illegally because I had to persist then."

Last year, Macalindong was awarded as an outstanding Overseas Filipino Entrepreneur by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, a recognition given by POE in part of the Go Negosyo Pinoy in mga OFWs at Iba-

NORMA MACALINDONG with husband Jesus (above) at their small store in via Viale Francesco in Piazza Manzini in Rome: "This is for my children. I will continue fighting for the rights of Filipinos to be here."

15 PERSONS exist in the Italian town council: Seven Filipinos, including Macalindong, took corners of the 28 contested seats.

ibilipinas. The award was handed by PEE founding father Jose Concepcion III and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

New venture

The Macalindongs have also started to expand business in the Philippines, managed by one of their children, Ma. Lui Pelos-Isaac Macalindong. Ilayan Import and Export established to deepen all the expenses of importing and exporting.

"My wanted all with a total of three shipments," she says. For the moment, I'm only supplying our store. I will see more stores other areas in Rome and perhaps even give the right time and the chance."

She has also put up computer shops and restaurants. She has bought for her family four cars in Rome and another four in Batangas.

"When you're that passionate to what you're doing, and you believe that God is by your side, there is just no breaking you down," she says.

Macalindong says she only hopes the Filipinos in Rome be given equal opportunities to enjoy their rights.

Her ultimate dream, she adds, is to go home and with decent income (and even some city right time, she says) after the window to go home is Sto Aquino, Manila's oldest, who is set to visit the ones city this month, says she hopes to join Aquino's "Feed to Die Deaf" game show on 460-1099 Channel 2.

"I regularly watch it at home through the Filipino channel, and I would want to try it myself," she says.

Hala her passages she has played. Ma, the daughter of a full-time and farmer has really gone a long way. "I will continue to fight for our rights here before I go back to Batangas for good," she says.

CAMPAIGN FLYER: To-be, point, no-title.

Taking care of HK kids can be emotionally burdensome

By Isabel T. Events
Contributor

HONG KONG—A FILIPINA mom working in the same district where I live phoned me one night and asked to see her. She said, "Can you help me with this homework for my kid?" Poly was referring to her employer's 12-year-old daughter. The thing is, when she has been caring for since she was an infant. She had called me because she knows I teach English to young Hong Kong students. She used to come over to help my son improve his English. I helped as best I could, but I wished why the child didn't ask her parents to help since I figured they knew more English (Mrs Sze) told me the mother works in a bank and the father, in a restaurant (I think).

"Monday," she said. "Her mother is home about this because she keeps getting scolded for not knowing her lessons," Poly said. "Yesterday when she arrived feeling well exemplary to go to school, her mother entered her room and shouted at her to get out of the house and go and apologize. When the kid refused, the mother pulled her hand and hit her on the face, but she kept shouting the child. The woman has high blood pressure."

Getting suicidal

Poly has been telling me for several months now that she is concerned of the girl as her mother. To all intents and purposes she is like a surrogate mother to Mei-ling and her younger sister Carlie, at 9, seems to have avoided her mom's vicissitude traits (I hope).

Mei-ling's mom is a well-to-do woman in her late 30s, she's kept showing

The WORLD

Julie Lawrence B. Sioco

Lovelorn astronaut won't face murder charge

ORLANDO, FLA.—Astronaut Lisa Nowak, who strained colleagues by driving from Houston to Orlando in a diaper to confront a woman she thought was a love rival, was charged with attempted kidnapping but not with attempted murder on Friday, prosecutors said.

The Orange County sheriff's office said Nowak also was formally charged on Friday with battery and stalking a youngster to attempt a car break-in. She is accused of pepper spraying the girlfriend of fellow astronaut Bill Oefelein, the prosecutors in Orlando said in a news release.

Shortly after Nowak was arrested on Feb. 6, police said she was trying to kill Lt. Col. Air Force Capt. Colleen Shipman. The police then charged Nowak, 43, with attempted first-degree murder, which carried a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

But the murder accusation was dropped without explanation when prosecutors brought the lesser charge almost a month later. The prosecutors declined to comment.

NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak during a news conference (left) following the landing of the space shuttle Discovery on July 17, 2006 and following her arrest in Orlando, Florida on Feb. 5, 2007. —AFP/NASA

In Houston, Nowak's lawyer, Donald Lidwchik famously accused police of rushing the attempted murder charge at the last minute in order to delay Nowak's release on bail. Orlando police Sgt. Rudene Jones denied that police tried to manipulate the system.

"The charges are brought forward, are followed the elements were there," Jones said. "We do the probable cause and they (prosecutors) have to decide the formal charges and when can they prove beyond a reasonable doubt and I have not the charges."

Nowak, who has three children and recently separated from her husband, was freed on bail and allowed to return to her home in Houston. She was ordered to stay away from the Florida county where Oefelein lives and was fitted with a global positioning device to enforce the court's bar on contact.

Police said Nowak, a flight engineer who made her first trip in space in July to the International Space Station, donned wireless electronics, sped the 1,200 km. from Houston to Orlando wearing diapers so she would not have to stop at a bathroom.

She disguised herself in a cloak, glasses and a wig and was seen in a convenience store in Orlando International Airport but told police she "only wanted to scare" the woman she was talking to her.

Nowak waited for Shipman's flight from Houston to arrive and then followed her to the parking garage armed with pepper spray, a steel mallet and a pellet gun, police said. —Reuters

SOOTHING THE AUTISTIC Assistant Instructor Jess Pedatella rides with Adam Pedatella at Ala Moana Beach Park in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 2. Professional surfers from Hawaii and California spent the day teaching dozens of autistic children in a one-day surf camp sponsored by Surfers Healing, a group founded by Pedatella's brother, former professional surfer Israel Pedatella, after he noticed the calming effect the ocean had on his own autistic son. —AP

Anna Nicole Smith finally laid to rest in the Bahamas

NASSAU—FORMER PLAYBOY MODEL AND billionaire's widow Anna Nicole Smith was finally laid to rest at a plush cul-de-sac funeral in the Bahamas Friday, following three weeks of legal battles over her body.

Pallbearers carried the pink-draped coffin over a red carpet into a flower-festooned church for a ceremony attended by some 300 invited guests.

Later, a convoy of Bahamian-camp hymns on the breeze entered a Nassau cemetery where guests were provided privacy in the form dozen policemen allowed at the graveside, and police, security clad in white T-shirts and pith helmets, escorted everyone else trapped out.

The private ceremonies followed a battle in legal borders over custody of the body that in the had seen Smith Playboy Hefner and a mourning to an 89-year-old billionaire.

At having of Bahamian, tourists and media crowded behind police barriers as the white coffin was carried into the Mount Horeb Baptist Church in Nassau.

The church was reportedly filled with pink roses, and visitors more to the funeral said Smith's body was clad in crystal gown and tiara.

The mourners includes Smith's estranged mother Virgie Arthur, her longtime companion Howard K. Stern and former boyfriend Larry Birkhead.

The body was flown to the Bahamas on a private plane early Friday, after courts in south Florida gave the go-ahead for the burial.

Arthur wanted her daughter to be buried in her native Texas but Stern insisted the late model had requested the desire to be put to rest alongside her son, who died in the Bahamas in September at the age of 20.

A Florida appeals court on Wednesday upheld a ruling that favored a Bahamian burial.

"This the close to her final resting place," said Florida lawyer Richard Millstein, who was given custody of the body after a court appointed him to represent the interests of Smith's 5 month-old daughter in the legal dispute.

"Today we share our grief with all of you," he said.

Speaking in the crowd outside the church, Millstein asked the media to respect the decision of the occasion so Smith could finally have a dignified burial.

Authorities in Florida have yet to disclose what caused Smith's sudden death at the age of 39. —AFP

WorldBriefs

US: New Iran sanctions to be 'incremental'

WASHINGTON—Senior US and European officials indicated Friday there was no US sanctions being decided to go against Iran for its nuclear program and no indication of a unilateral, military operation of measures proposed by the world body in Chancellor. "This is going to be an incremental sanctions," said one diplomat not authorized to speak on the record. "It will be proportionate to the response that the Iranians have given the international community. In this sense, "the total response as diplomats from the Security Council members Germany have said today on the same resolution. Mr Ereminski would not go into detail on the new sanctions being considered in light of Iran's refusal to comply with the December resolution demanding it suspend a uranium-linked program that was also be used to develop nuclear weapons. But a senior US official said the resolution would not include significant new sanctions measures but would reaffirm existing and targeted measures against Iran and individuals involved with Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program. —AFP

Fayed triumph: jury to hear Diana inquest

LONDON—A British court ruled Friday that the inquest into the 1997 death of Princess Diana will be heard by a jury in a victory for the boyfriends for the late princess and establishment plot theorists suspect. The high court ruling, overturning the coroner's previous decision to hear it alone, came after a legal challenge from Egyptian-born tycoon Mohamed Al Fayed. The billionaire's son Dodi Fayed, who died with Diana in a Paris car crash. Fayed, the millionaire owner of London department store Harrods and Premiership football club Fulham, welcomed the judgement as "an important step" and pledged to attend the jury hearing starts by late 12 months' jury. —AFP

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Sunday SPORTS

■ Kiamco rules US Bar Table /A25

Barako open Fiesta Cup defense vs TJ Giants

NEO Welts import James Penny (front) and Purefoods counterpart Marquis Chandler won't be relaxing their rivalry one jot. At least, not until Chandler gets healthy enough to return to action for the Tender-juicy Giants.

INQUIRER PHOTO

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO RED BULL SINCE WINNING the Fiesta Cup last year

The Barako lost Lordy Tejada to a lopsided trade and then Mick Pennisi to the National Team; had a couple of weeks back, enabling their defense of the import-aided tournament starting today doubly hard.

"I guess it's pretty wide open," coach Yeng Guiao told the Inquirer over the phone of this year's Talk 'N Text Fiesta Cup. "It's too early to tell how this team will perform."

Guiao, however, reserves for a second time of thinking, and will be plugging no important slots in his roster with Pennisi out.

"Mr. (Dennis) is not a Ruby import who posts big numbers, but he does almost all the things needed for his team to win," Guiao said. "He's gotten better since last year and that gives us confidence going into the tournament."

The Barako dug it out with last year's runner-up Purefoods in the 6:35 p.m. encore at the Cuneta Astrodome, with the Tender Juicy Giants using Jesse King for the time being while they await Marquis Chandler's return to health.

Chandler, who won the first Import-of-the-Conference award last year, is already in town, but the cracking stud will see King in the first couple of outings before Chandler's NBA2 stint is completed here.

Red Bull, which closed out Purefoods and Chandler in an opener of the duo's semi-last year, will be coming off a fourth place finish in the Philippine Cup after losing in seven games to Ginebra in the semifinals.

Aaron Aguilar, Larry Fonacier and Gideon Gray will be the main hosts for Guiao, while the Giants will rely mainly on Asmet Yap to provide help for King with Jun Limpot and Ildefonso Pingris limited and Dylan Wentworth on loan to the PBA line.

Mehrnet and Coca-Cola, which finished in the last two spots of the Philippine Cup, clash in the 4:05 p.m. game with both parading potentially explosive imports.

The Dragons actually have two reinforcements in which Congress ended his long-awaited PBA debut after the league cleared Pittman to suit up for the 5'9" import and his erstwhile assistant coach, Charles Edward Clark made up for Pittman while Coca-Cola parades Anthony Johnson. Manong R. Guzilla

Congratulations to HARBOUR CENTER for winning back-to-back PBL Championships.

it's in Harbour Centre. is it in you?

Mitchel Martinez: Throwing shots like no other

PITCHEL Martinez works the punching bag.

By Jane Navarro

ALL FILIPINO GLADIATORS HAVE proud hearts and love coming home to their families, Mitchel Martinez knows it best.

But for Mitchel Martinez, it's something else.

The seven-time medalist/coach/referee in the women's national boxing team thanks helping her family taken precedence over all others. The second eldest in a brood of seven, Martinez is particularly proud that her siblings were able to go to school through her ring prowess.

"My brothers earned college degrees because of my boxing," said Martinez, a police officer for the past nine years, mentor to Camp Crame now-with the rank of SPO1.

Younger brothers, Roberto Jr. and Ryan, now have stable jobs while the youngest sister, Jayrobelle, 17, is a freshman at De La Salle-Bacolod taking up BS Education.

Roberto Jr. is now based in Canada working for McDonalds and Ryan, who finished a construction degree, is a full-fledged seaman.

"Life was difficult back then. But with two of my brothers helping me support the family, the burden lost its extreme lightness," said Martinez.

Her father, Roberto Sr., lost his job in 1993, prompting Martinez to help provide for the needs of the family as a young age.

Martinez was lucky to become a track and field scholar while in Iloilo. Recalled, values she now discovered and honed in the national team kept her and her sister after winning the gold medal in shotput during the 1995 Philippine Sea Great Games in Manila.

When Cebu-based future mom-own, Martinez's parents put up a small eatery in the local City through the earnings of their daughter. It ran the network's job and field team and police force.

Then, the abrupt shift from track and field to boxing happened.

Martinez, used to throwing non-contact balls on the field, found herself wearing gloves one morning in 2001 when boxing team tried to search for female fighters.

"Boxing is my favorite sport. So when the boxers came, I grabbed the opportunity," said the 30-year-old Bantayan.

Martinez's physique and stamina is certainly a catch for people of her age, something which he attributes to keeping a grim on and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

He still goes hardcore in the mountains of Baldoc-Baldoc in Bantayan Island to gear up one of his hobbies—off-road racing—because the couple also often put too much pressure on her back.

Long-overseas trips like this one make him miss home—his wife, five-kids and their 20 days—but they've come to accept it as part of their profession.

It's also a little pain and sacrifice for the good life they're all enjoying.

There'll be lots more outrigger in Bantayan and Cebu before the wives, now called the living legend of golf, gets to see off of their spirits.

When it happens, they will all probably head to Mitchel's favorite refuge—the beach.

(Full coverage of the exclusive interview with Beatrice Ali, Nico will appear in the March issue of Inquirer Grazia)

Taekwondo star's 2-year suspension lifted by ITF

SMASH

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LUTHER MARK SIMMONS HAS JUST BEEN given a chance to redeem himself.

The taekwondo jin, who was stripped of his 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medal after testing positive for a banned substance, is back in business after the International taekwondo federation (ITF) lifted the suspension imposed on her nearly two years ago, according to the Philippine Taekwondo Association yesterday.

Philippine Head coach Stephen Fernandez confirmed that the suspension was lifted late last year, allowing Simmons to again compete in tournaments.

For the 30-year-old Laguna, the reinstatement is a comforting factor for her to continue hard and prove her detractors wrong. She's now training three times a week with the national squad.

"I've never really stopped training," said Simmons, who was suspended after she was found to have used diuretics during the controversial test for the SEAG medalists.

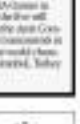
When asked to recall what substance she took, Simmons politely declined to answer and said, "I want to forget everything about it and instead focus on the present."

She is currently training to make it to the prestigious event for the Thailand SEA Games where Simmons said she'll try "to get back the gold medal that I truly deserve."

A senior education student at the University of Santo Tomas, Simmons said she is bent on spending her time training for the event.

Fernandez said he has welcomed Simmons back in the ITF team fold, adding that the newcomers didn't lose faith and confidence in its top fighter.

Seaba hosting a matter of formality



IN HUDDLE

Beryl Cesa

SCORES AND photographers covering the PBA were doubled to a point of confusion by the Coca Cola Tigers through its advertising agency as Friday night.

The occasion was for a guy at the Manila Polo Club to announce Chiba Mokali.

Expecting a long-awaited update on the status of the PBA franchise and answers to many questions, the seekers and photographers got a pointer to the next PBC season.

The media was welcomed by Coke coach Bicky Pacia and scheming Phil governor Jr Dayao who held the latest press release where Coke wants to say the Pop Coke franchise some years back.

Announcing officially by the first time the transfer of ownership of Coca Cola Philippines from San Miguel Corporation to the mother company in Atlanta, the two spokesmen in the scene to take charge were then introduced as Bating Chilliver from Iceland, chief operating officer and Ian Ed Jones from Boston, chief executive officer.

The team was there for reasons and, in fact, for a dinner call by the press.

Before I continue, let me tell you that I was not in that press on.

Based with a dilemma, a caller from a popular broadcaster called me somehow to inquire the festivities was the fact that some of the questions they wanted to ask were left unanswered. In the process, he had to talk about the previous night's album.

They reasoned that the company had been caught off guard, and that's why it really felt had a lot of questions to ask. But what they intend to do with the team, if they are taking the franchise left, stock and traded, or more importantly, if they were taking the franchise at all."

My guess this is the most likely objection but we reminded them it wrought to no effect of the top two earned ten from Coke International. They were to another table and they had time to furnish forms for the evening. One talks with JB and Becky were informed, "we are all the same."

Well maybe the time should call another press conference, complete with a program and on-site forms.

***

SMART vice chairman Eddie Juegos' voice sounded tired but happy as he explained how the overnight planters session of the association's board of trustees went.

The attendance was good, he said and the session went very well as they charted their direction for the coming months and years.

Only chairman Luis Villafuerte and director Lito Alcazaren failed to attend, he said.

"We spent the whole day working on this and we arrived a lot of pinnacle programs program, the formation of the national team, accreditation by membership, the holding of workshops, the synchronization of calendars, etc. ... and our mission vision. The session was very productive," he reported.

On the hosting of this year's Seaba, Eddy said they are only awaiting a formal letter from Hiba Asia, confirming that the event will be held here in Manila.

"Thailand, the original host, has agreed to let us host the event. It's all a matter of formality."

Sterne leads 'JW'; Goosen concedes

PHUKET, THAILAND—SOUTH AFRICAN Richard Sterne fired a record consecutive 64 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of the Johnnie Walker Classic Saturday as countryman Retief Goosen conceded defeat.

Sterne started the tournament with a three-under-par 69 and birdied a solo first to enter the top four a bit on Friday, propelled him up the ranks by a second and a topical performance Saturday put him in front.

He is 13 under par, one shead of England's Oliver Wilson.

Three fourth drivers till the top five positions with Anton Haig in third, two shots adrift, and Goosen in fifth at eight under par.

New Zealand's Richard Lee is at nine under.

World number five Ernie El lamented back after a disappointing first two rounds with a 69 to take seven shots behind. AFP

Tagaytay-RP chessers whip Iraq

TAGAYTAY—DAUNTLESS GRANDMASTER Rodel Inclan fired a second consecutive win to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of the Johnnie Walker Classic Saturday as countryman Retief Goosen conceded defeat.

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World number five Ernie El lamented back after a disappointing first two rounds with a 69 to take seven shots behind. AFP

PBA All-Star balloting starts today

PASIG CITY—THE FANS WILL GET THEIR VOTING on players who will make up this year's starting rosters for the 2007 PBA All-Star game.

Voting begins today, simultaneous with the opening of the season-ending Fiesta Cup at the Araneta.

The All-Star voting will be held at San Fernando, La Union and Baguio City from April 25 to 29.

All twelve popular players selected to the annual event for the coming South East Asian Basketball Association championships and the Fiba Asia Olympic qualifier are eligible to be voted to the four as part of the starting unit of the North and South teams.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala said fans can vote through e-mails, SMS and in game venues during playing days.

Interim's Ang Ubiñez said San Miguel's Dion Reyes will handle the two selection offices during their respective games in the Philippine Cup finals.

Life's a beach for Frankie Miñoza

By Jong Arcaya
Inquirer Golf Monthly Editor

PHUKET, THAILAND—IT'S A SATURDAY and for the first time in almost two months, Frankie Miñoza is heading anywhere but the golf course.

The golf vet Lay unleashed at the course of his hometown, the date extended for the weekend rounds still hanging in the closet and his luggage already packed.

"It's time to relax and I'm so sorry to the fans," Miñoza told the Inquirer on the beach of Phuket in Thailand, where he's spending his weekend off after failing to make the cut in the Johnnie Walker Classic at the Blue Canyon Country Club here.

And if, he's also sought to check the pin for/play his consecutive tournaments in the different countries of Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

It was time for him to soothe that muscles. And again to meet his blessings.

He probably never made as much money than he did the past three months when he appeared everywhere by winning once, finishing second twice and placing seventh eighth to make the cut in four other high-caliber events.

The payoff couldn't be less than P5 million although it's probably just a fraction of what he has earned over the two dozen years in the Philippines' top guy.

"You recall, on hand, you deserve to get something right?" said Miñoza when asked of his recent successes.

Rightly so because he remains competitive while his contemporaries have mostly gone downhill, if not retired.

AFTER a hectic schedule, Frankie Miñoza finally finds time to relax, raising in the scenery at the Patong beach, which is back to life after the deadly tsunami.

UNITY IN SPORTS: Business magnate and NAP Sumatrong Basketball ng Pilipinas president Manuel V. Pangilinan (middle), PDC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez (right) receive plaques of appreciation for making possible the holding of Unity in Sports at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. From left are Commissioner Chairperson Carmen of the Edsa People Power Commission and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. The event held on Feb 25 commemorated the 21st Anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

WORLD 8-BALL

Alcano leads RP charge

KEEPING WORLD POOL CHAMPION Ronato Alcano downed Rafath Hafeth of India, 9-3, in Group E to lead the Philippine campaign at the start of the third annual World 9-Ball Championships at the Al Burhan Hall in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates over the weekend.

Former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 2000 World Pool League titlist Dennis Orcollo and reverend Filipino worker Al James Ortega also handled their respective rivals in Group F.

Bustamante crushed Alexander Dzemidzik of Germany 10-11, Orcollo thrashed Kid Rivera of Great Britain (8-1) and Ortega subdued Saleh Al Hassan of UAE (8-3).

Also winning were Ceferi Dee Calasang, Mario Talamisan, Jerwin Allicant, Jayke Mesias, Johnson, James Watkins, and Dave Harris.

Morrissey defeated Shane Van Boening in Race to commit with El-sayed, the newest member of Jerry Maclean's Rugby Promotions.

Morrissey pocketed $3,500 for second, Boening $2,500 for third and Mostro $1,500 for fourth.

"Warren (Morrissey) is really one of the best players, said Rex Makabenta, chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines. "It's unfortunate that he got sick last year."

Other Filipinos who competed in the 144-man field were Edwin Elumbaring, Gerry Wilo, Rodolfo Luat and Antonio Gabica. Marlon Bernardino, Conrad Baroso

ALCANO

BUSTAMANTE

Cabarrus bested Hadi Al Jawarsi of Kingdom of South Africa (8-2) in Group A. Tolentino tripped Mohammad Assef of Egypt (8-7) in Group B, Alba stopped Hani Al Bowat of UAE (8-4), and Hoosny crushed Mohammad Bedaid of Qatar (8-1) in Group G.

Filipinos Jason Bustamante and Johen Parga yielded to Germans Thorsten Hohenstein (8-6) in Group C and Olaf Kreitz (8-7) in Group G, respectively.

Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes and Lee Van Corteza were still playing against Venezuelan Brandon Acevedo and Australian Michael Feiler at presstime.

Other notable winners in the opening round were reigning titlist Wu Chia-ching and Hui Kai-hsin of Taiwan, Thomas Engert and Oliver Ortmann of Germany, Irish Feijen and Nick Van den Berg of the Netherlands, Satoshi Kawahara of Japan and Marcus Chamat of Sweden. Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Kiamco rules US Bar Table

FILIPINO WARREN KIAMCO topped the 9-ball division of the 14th Annual US Bar Table Championship at the Sands Regency hotel in Reno, Nevada last Friday.

The 36-year-old Kiamco, a three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, earned $6,000 (about P290,000) for his first major title this year and is now eligible for the $15,000 Mosconi Cup later this year in 9-Ball. Division that get underway presently.

Kiamco, who hails from Bohol, Cebu but is now based in Quezon City took the hot seat Friday afternoon with a win over the Bahamas' nobumaru Rahming. He repeated over Marciano, 9-5, in the finals.

KIAMCO- P290,000 richer

En route to the finals, Kiamco, who got a bye in the first round, overpowered Mike Wells, Jason Mercedes, Hamzat Ovenleye, Thurley Johnson, James Watkins, and Dave Harris.

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MAIDEN Stoninger (foreground) struggles for control in Matteo Guidicelli (40) is about to roll over after their karts crash during the Pre-Final of the second round of the Batas Mega Mac Challenge at the Carmona Circuit. Alessandra Madrigal (rear) topped the race to grab the lead in the series.

BYSTOP CHOICE

Race 1 — (1st) - Stanley Allan (2), Tanging Bato (3), Lady Dido (7).

Race 2 — (2nd Tri) - Don Bosco (1), Mary Jane Bonita (6), Quenquenbert (2), Lucaban (8).

Race 3a — (3rd) - Antonio (3), Grand Play (7), Bad Trouble (1).

Race 4 — (3rd Tri) — Antonio (3), Pimbo Bello (6), Aunt Nida (1), Gino Orobato (7).

Race 5 — (Super 6/Qn/Tri) - Cuba Mo (8), Mercado's Rose (6), Special Sally, Jerry Prince - Tuesday (10), Friday (11), Saturday (12), Consolation winners (1), Race 6 — (2nd Tri) — Silverstreet (11), Mik (2), Bruce Hunch (6), Mic Monroe (4).

Race 7 — (Forecast Tri) — Big Bang (1), Jose Sumatra (2), Double (3), Mercado (5), Heavenly (6).

Race 8 — (Tri) — Grand Touch (3), Lord Time (2), Tech Wave (8).

Race 9 — (2nd Tri) — Rosario's Pearl (8), Jolly (7), Mikaelson (2), Tatiyan (3), Tom Tom (1), Don Ani Mio (12).

Race 10 — (Super 6/Qn/Tri) - Se Sael (1), Consolation (8), Tatiyan (2), Tom Tom (1), Don Ani Mio (12).

Pacquiao to host NCA Pasay derby

MANNY PACQUIAO AND SPORTSMAN GYM will host the 3-rock derby of the Philippine Cockers' Association (NCA) on March 8 at the Pasay City cockpit.

Champion breeders Arnaut Gruenco Ramos Revilla, Rhonde Lopez, Gec Bo Nuneo, Ani Santiago, Silvete Abella, Roy Jaro, Chairman Rudy M. Isaac, Ouching Cojuangco, Pacot Villanueva, brothers Eddie and Sidney Avanna, Pantch Asunsio, brothers Ariel and Bobby Acuanca, Ancelo Severino Sally and Thomas Yuson, JC Magsaysay, Baby Arana, Johnny Jalandoni, Charling Magbulos, Lusty Mendana, Joey Imamura, Jun Marasigan, Bobot Uy, Silvete Jocelyn, Randy Peralta, Jerry Bielan, Tony Madrid, Arlan Lagbao, William Go, Jerson Uy, and Sun Multibird will have their cocks in the NCA derby.

Other NCA stalwarts entered are Lando Gelizan, Bard Bautista, Edgar Sinatra, Pito Bonte, Ingge Arroyo, Efren Gadon, Mario Villaroel, Art and Wally Angeles, Jet Fernando, Mallakaphone Brothers, Art Sevilla, Edwin Santos, Arbet Villa, Tony Lucido, Benjie Lim, Ped Estrellado, Michael Uy, Lando Calebre and Edgar Sanora.

Alessandra Racing Team sweeps top three places

ALESSANDRA RACING TEAM FLAGSTED its night by sweeping the top three places in the second round of the Batas Mega Mac Challenge held Sunday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

Chris Roy Eco, the 11-year-old Alessandra Madrigal who led from start to finish of the 20-lap Final Teammate Mark Kumpanan clocked in Formula Enkidad, followed by Oliver Aquino, another Alessandra Racing driver, 6 seconds later.

Thirdplace Philippine representative in the World Karting Championship and former points leader Marlon Rodriguez rounded by engine problems, settled for fourth.

Madrigal, who is coached by former world karting champion Tony Fullerton of Great Britain, has competed in four karting events this year and has, so far, posted an impressive 1-2-3-1 first-second-first record.

Another Alessandra Racing Team member and defending Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli was forced to withdraw after figuring in an incident with Stoninger on the 13th lap of the Pre-Final.

Guidicelli's kart collided with Stoninger's on the second turn, flipped and landed upside down. Guidicelli was taken to the hospital and treated for bruises while Stoninger lost several positions and wound up seventh.

With the result, Madrigal leads the standings with 175 points, followed by Rodriguez (160), Aquino (151), Stoninger (100), Pedro Jalosjos Jr. (Grand Circuit GT-1000 sphere) (75), Jose Bautista (145), Stephen Marcelo (144), Bobby Domingo (137), Santiago Garcia (133), Guidicelli (108), Mateo Angeles (91), Jody Villaflor (75) and Allen Uy (65).

The third round of the Batas Mega Mac Challenge is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, at the Carmona Circuit.

Women's Pool up March 26

THE INAUGURAL WOMEN'S NATION al Pool Championship will be held March 26-31 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The event is being organized alongside the 2nd Men's National Pool Championship by the Philippine Amateur Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) to encourage more women and girls to take up the sport. "BSCP surveys show that eight million Filipinos who watch it on TV are women," said BSCP president Ricardo Morales. "That's why a small percentage of them play pool. We believe it's time we encouraged women to take up the sport. BSA Games double gold medalist Fidaline Gonzaga will lead the field in the six-day competition. Carrying her are national pool stars Mary Ann Basas (South Luzon 9-ball), Assal Gamino (and his Manila South) silver medalist Rubilen Amit.

Total prize money to reach P200,000 for the champion and prize up to eight place. In addition, top players in the tournament will be welcoming BSCP-sanctioned competitions. "We will use this event to scout our representatives and top players for the SEA Games in Thailand in December," said BSCP president Efren Capulong. Entry fee is P1,000. Deadline for registration is March 19.

SPORTSWATCH

NFGB welcomes eight new members

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GAMEFOWL BREEDERS, INC. (NFGB) WELcomed to its fold eight new gamefowl breeders associations, bringing to 34 the total number of its membership. NFGB, headed by newly elected president Tony Fernandez, was the organizer of the annual National Battlecock 9- derby, which drew 1, 015 entries last year. The eight new associations: West Gamefowl Breeders Association headed by Jose Tio, Gamefowl Breeders Association of Pangasinan of Ramon Reyes, Diamond Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tarlac of Dennis Lacsamana, Mountain Eagle Gamefowl Breeders Association of engineer Nilmon Manuel, LAGUNA Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tony Fernandez, Cocal Gamefowl Breeders Association of John Lee, Bohol Gamefowl Breeders Association of Hilario Tee, United Bukidnon Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tony Omnes and Cauayan Gamefowl Breeders Association of Ed Bellosillo.

Super Pacman derby at Makati Coliseum

FOR SATELLITE SPORTS AND MANDARIN NET CORP. PRESENTS AMATEUR KickBoxer, Additional Super Pacman 5-rock derby, on Monday at the Makati Coliseum. Participants must submit entries today at Makati Coliseum, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Representing Mandarin Network, were reported as a common gamefowl breeder, will host the event in partnership with the Super Pacman group. Pacquiao recently bagged the Mexico 1-rock derby championship using the Joe Sanford roundhouse. Meanwhile, gamefowl breeders who want to join the ring derbies at Makati Coliseum may contact 896-3000 and 890-8474 (Jean or Stephanie).

Gomez tops Pacman 10-ball

GENERAL SANTOS CITY— Roberto Gomez bested Dondon Ramirez, 11-8, in the finals to win the 2nd Manny Pacquiao 10-Ball Open Billiard Tournament at Arthur's Billiard Hall here Thursday.

The win was worth P100,000 for the Zamboanga City-born Gomez.

"Ibinaban Ilumabot g good, but I passed the breakshot," said the 28-year-old Gomez in Hiligaino. "The fact that I was working in the finals was also a big factor because I was able to rest."

Gomez, one of the rising stars of Bagay Pacman, has been a bye in the quarterfinals and semifinals before he battled Gil Cantaneo, Boy Mandalita, Arnold Ramirez, Arnel Sacnoc and Dandino to accession to huge into the final.

The Japan-based Ramirez, who hails from Cabanag, Quezon, limited firecracker victim Jerry "Parot" Pelayo of Negros Billiard Stable (NBS), 9-5, to face a rematch with Gomez.

GOMEZ

Pelayo settled for third place and P25,000.

"My game versus mine," said Ramirez, who pocketed P100,000. in Hiligaino. "The breaks really went Gomez's way."

Edgardo Silvero, house pro of the Sub Billiard Hall in Ermita, Manila, beat Pontillo Datoong, 7-3, and settled for joint fifth to eighth places with Soriano, Tenorio Isabelo and Tommy Mota.

Davao City's Leonardo Dalal, the 2006 Solar Sports 10-0 Ball Open runner up, downed Ilonggo for fourth place and P15,000.

Filipino-Japanese Mike Takayama missed up early for 9th to 12th places with Ramirez, Cardenio Dacumos and Rowing Nisa.

At 10th to 16th players were Negros Billiard Stable bets Bibby Zeron and Reynaldo Grandinda, Johnson Chua and Danny Oracion.

The event was organized by BP Solchbest champ Jude Fabron and Boy Lopez. Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

TOP DRIVER: Team Ela gets three awards (Motorsports Driver of the Year, Asian Formula Three Driver of the Year and Philippine National Formula Three Championship) during the 2006 Golden Wheel Awards Night at the Casino Filipino. The 17-year-old Ela, backed by Petron, Puma and Zennith Motorsports, is the only Asian-Filipino driver in the 2007 Star Mazda Championship. He is leaving for the US to join the series which begins March 18 in Florida.

BACK-to-back champion Sam Amienza (fourth from left) displays his trophy during the awards night at China Palace in Mall of Asia. From left, Jeri Mikhelo Lineagan, Mc Medel, Roy Yong, runner-up Ed Pedagas, silent player Cielo Manar, Boy Caballero, Luis Cusapy, Nonnie Yu-ig, Art Gabico and Ben Bedonia.

Atienza Goin' Bananas champ

SAM ATIENZA, A LONG-TIME LOCATOR from San Jose, did it again.

Atienza amassed 95 points via the Modern scoring system to emerge overall champion in the second leg of the Goin' Bananas golfers' tour, Luis, California.

Atienza beat club president Ed Pedagas, who tallied 73, and handicap-duke Cielo Manar, who posted 70, to win the event staged at Malacañang Golfers Forest Hills (Antipolo), and Tagaytay's Highlands and Midland courses.

"He (Atienza) appeared to have mastered the local courses," said tournament director Roy Yong.

Close to 200 Goin' Bananas members competed in the tourney, which served as a warm-up for their participation in the Corporate Cup starting tomorrow in Baguio City.

Other participants were Noemi Vinoy, Mc Medel, Bob Ocampo, Luis Cusapy, Art Gabico, Manolo Lineagan, Ben Bedonia, Boy Caballero, Danny Arevalo, Mario Vitug, Roger Tabilisa, Elmer Manalaysay, Jojo Ocampo, Stewart Go, Sonny Yuvasi and Robert Bragunon.

Allianic US debut ends in TKO loss

JERSEY CHIEFS OF MINDANAO BY TKO BEGIN knocked out Hilario Hotel Manic 6:06 in 6th round of their 10-round fight at the Blue Alhambra in Philadelphia Friday. The fight was conquered the start of the ninth round due to Hog cuts over Allianic's left eye. Allianic, from Bacolod City, was making his debut fight in the United States against Manic, who represented Mexico at the Athens Olympics. Manic raised his record to 11 wins with 7 KOs, while Allianic dipped to 15-3 with 7 KOs. Edwin L. Lagandaog, contributor

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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SPORTS
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Shaq shows 'em who's the boss

SHAQ: It's against my religion to not double [team] me.

MIAMI—SHAQUILLE O'NEAL HELPED THE MIAMI Heat build a 22-point lead. And when they blew it, he delivered the go-ahead dunk in the final minute to beat the Detroit Pistons.

O'Neal had 31 points and 15 rebounds, both season highs, and the Heat earned their most impressive win yet since losing Dwyane Wade, edging Detroit 89-82 Friday night.

The Pistons rallied from a 20-28 deficit to take their first lead with 2:14 left. But O'Neal's dunk with 56 seconds to go put the Heat ahead to stay, 82-80.

Detroit missed three 3-point tries in the final 20 seconds that would have tied the game, including one by Chauncey Billups, who finished 2-for-14 from the field. He missed 11 consecutive shots before scoring his first basket with 5 minutes left.

"Hard to, they think I'm an old man," O'Neal said responding after the game.

"No (Coach Riley) told me this morning to go out and get 30 points," added O'Neal, who also was double-teamed by the Pistons.

"I take it personal when people don't double me. It's against my religion to not double me."

Dwyane Wade had 22 points and Richard Hamilton finished with 20 for the Pistons, who failed to overcome a season-low 20 points in the first half.

The Heat improved to 3-2 since Wade sore sidelined with a dislocated left shoulder. Detroit's Rasheed Wallace missed the game with a sprained left foot.

In other NBA games, it was Milwaukee 94, Toronto 81; Philadelphia 117, Memphis 112 (OT); Washington 92, Atlanta 82; New York 106, Golden State 97; San Antonio 90, Orlando 74; Utah 109, Minnesota 83; Chicago 104, New Orleans 93; Houston 100, Denver 97; Phoenix 102, Indiana 90; Sacramento 145, LA Lakers 109.

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili made six 3-pointers and finished with 21 points to help the Spurs extend their season-high winning streak to seven.

In Minneapolis, Devon Wilkinson had 21 points and eight assists for the Jazz while Gordan Giricek made four 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 20 points as Utah's subs outscored their counterparts 51-23.

In Chicago, Ben Gordon scored 27 points, and Kirk Hinrich added 11 of his 22 in the fourth quarter to help the Bulls pull away from the Hornets.

In Los Angeles, Mike Bibby scored 10 of his 23 points in the final 5:04 and Kevin Martin added 26, leading Sacramento over Los Angeles that ended the Lakers' three-game winning streak. AP, Reuters

DEFENDING champion Centennial leads the pack that sailed out of the Manila Yacht Club.

Manila-Boracay yacht race on; RP bet favored

By Jasmine W. Payo

CHAMPION YACHTS DOTTED THE MANILA Bay yesterday as 28 local and foreign racers sailed away from the Manila Yacht Club for the kickoff leg of the 516-nautical-mile Manila-to-Boracay fleet.

Defending champion Centennial, skippered by Ramon Echaus, remains a favorite along with Asian rivals veterans Al Pedrille of Neil Pryde, Frederick Kimmerle's Mandolin, Frank Feagy's Jolk, Ray Ordoveza's Kimbies, Ray Roberts' Quantum and Godfrey Hill's Smooth.

The 200-nautical-mile race drew a record number of participants since its inception in 2000.

"There are 12 foreign boats—about six of them grand prix boats—participating in this event," said organizers chair Jesse Jurella Jr. during the kickoff party Friday night at the Manila Yacht Club.

"It is not just the quantity, but the quality of the participants. I think this is going to be one of the toughest sailing events in Southeast Asia."

The race will be followed by the Cebu Pesti doro Cup Regatta, which will be held in January for the first time from March 7 to 10.

"With the combined races, we're expecting the participants to be more competitive," said Jurella.

Racers from Australia, South America, Europe, China, Japan and Southeast Asia signed up for the back-to-back events.

Although Centennial also battled it out in last year's President's Cup, Jurella said the foreign boats may put up a challenge during the inshore and offshore races around Boracay Island and the Tablas Strait.

"The topnotch foreign boats, those who have won in the Asian circuits, are all here," noted Jurella. "These are all seasoned racers, they have top sailors crews and teams."

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The other side of 'Gov' Cuisia

Former CB head talks about regrets, family

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

PHILAMLIFE CEO AND FORMER Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia had his share of battles with the media, especially when he was administrator of the Social Security System and head of the Central Bank.

He was known for turning cool, literally, when his temper arises, and biting his nails when under stress.

But asked what his regret is, and he gives an unexpectedly candid answer, revealing a different side to "Gov Cuisia" as some reporters still call him.

Usually when CEOs are asked about their regrets, their answers often have something to do with their current and corporate decisions.

It is refreshing to hear an executive say his regret in life was not having been able to spend more time with his family.

Cuisia admits during a recent roundtable discussion with members of the business-business section that his one regret was not having been able to devote the time that rightfully belonged to his wife and five daughters, particularly the second.

Critical posts

And this was because he had two critical government positions—first as SSS head, then CB Governor—which required almost all of his waking hours.

"I was not able to spend time with my second daughter and she became rebellious. There was a time when she stopped going to Mass," says Cuisia, a lecture member of De Opus Dei, the group started by St. Josemaria Escriva whose basic tenet is sanctification via one's work and achieving holiness through ordinary tasks.

"I would go home at 11 to 11:30 in the evening and leave at 8 or 8:30 in the morning. We hardly saw each other," he says, describing his schedule when he was CB Governor, from February 1990 to July 1993.

Cuisia believes in parents spending time—both in terms of quality and quantity—with their children. One-on-one sessions with each child is a must, if only because each son or daughter is different and has his or her own needs.

"I just didn't have enough time for the family because of all the trips I had to take when we were restructuring our Philippine consumer debt and surviving with creditors," says Cuisia.

"I should have spent more quality time with my wife and daughters," he adds.

Changing posts

It was this demanding work schedule coupled with his inner tug-of-war between the perennially-dude Cuisia from his post.

When he was with CB, he received only about P25,000 a month. With the passage of the new Banking Law that created the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the pay of the BSP executives were increased to around P150,000 a month. It was then Cuisia had left and joined Philamlife.

"But now would you say the pay, which has a six-year term, Bruno still would give it up for one's family

"But it became the Central Bank (now BSP) head is a very important and influential position in the country. The BSP is tasked with regulating the country's money supply, which affects interest rates and inflation. It is also the big boss of all the banks in the Philippines.

But Cuisia left before the end of his six-year term, and he does not regret his move.

Grace Archer

A pure Green Archer, his first daughter also studied at De La Salle University. His second, the one he called rebellious, went to the Ateneo but eventually transferred to La Salle. The third and the fourth girls however, went the Blue Eagles way and enrolled in Ateneo although the fourth daughter is now in the Singapore Management University.

The youngest, the only one Cuisia gets to regularly spend time with, is a sophomore at the Ateneo.

Although he would have preferred that all his kids go to La Salle, he allowed them to choose their own schools. But what he could not take was his second daughter coming home one day, during her freshman year at the Ateneo, quoting her religion teacher in saying the three true lurse to have Mass every Sunday.

One can imagine Cuisia's fury for not carrying out at the daughter's remark. But he held back and instead talked to the then Archbishop of the Ateneo to get feedback.

A devout Catholic who hears Mass daily, Cuisia was greatly saddened by her daughter's pronouncement. But her foray out of the Church did not last.

Cuisia believes the foundation provided by her high school, the Wardolee School for Girls, proved stronger.

"Suddenly she was going to Mass every day," says Cuisia, jokingly adding that he suspected she was probably infatuated with a graduate of the Institute School for Boys who went to Mass daily.

Grandsons and Stockbridge are run by the Parents for Education Foundation, whose founders are members of the Opus Dei.

For the longest time, Cuisia was the only male in the family.

"Dad, even one ring is female," one of her daughters told him when she was young.

Now that one daughter is married and a grandchild is expected, there is at least one other male during family gatherings.

Although he spends regular time with each child, he admits he tends to spoil them.

"My wife is the disciplinarian," he says.

Two of the girls are abroad—working with MG, the medical company of Philamlife.

Cuisia says unlike other companies, internship in the company is encouraged among family members.

What he did not expect was Alfi hiring his daughter. One is in New York and the other had stints in London and another in Russia.

"My only condition when I agreed that they will work abroad was that they get the proper visas," he says.

The eldest daughter pursued higher studies in Princeton in the United States and is now married and a teacher.

Cuisia names these days when the whole family would regularly get restaurant hopping. Food is a passion in the girls love to eat, he says.

At 62, Cuisia is looking forward to retirement and devoting his life to socio-civic activities. He says he will be active with Gawad Kalinga and will be involved in corporate governance agencies.

In his core 38 years in banking and government, Cuisia has been able to preserve his name. And he intends to eventually retire with his reputation intact.

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OPPORTUNITIES

THE PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER (PTTC) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will be conducting various seminars this month at the PTTC Bldg. Ayala Ave. cor. E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. in Quezon City.

How to start a business

PTTC will conduct a seminar on how to start a business on March 8 at the Seminar Room A, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg.

The seminar aims to prepare the participants in building up their capabilities in business. Topics are: Self-analysis on Entrepreneurial Capability, Personal Skills/ Competence, Finding a Niche, Market Analysis, Planning your Start-up, Your Business and the Law, Partnership, your Business, Business Practices & Location, Merchandise, and Business Records.

For inquiries, call 894-1344 to 49 and 911-9908 or fax at no. 818-1343.

Strategic marketing

SCORE! Seminars aims performance for your company. By building relationships early your clients through persuasive presentation techniques, you can close the sale transaction and generate more accounts.

All these and more will be taken up in the Seminar on Strategic Marketing on March 9 at Seminar Room 6, 2nd Floor of PTTC Bldg.

The seminar will discuss topics on: Overview of Basic Marketing, Description of the Philippine Market Based on Social, Economic and Political Conditions, Psychology of the Filipino Consumer, Promotional Mix (Mission Expression, Strength Building, Prospecting and Qualifying Clients, Sales Calls, Effective Presentation Skills, Handling Objections and Closing the Sales, and Action Planning.

For inquiries, call 894-1344 to 49 local 117 and 911-9908 or fax at no. 818-1343.

Supervisory effectiveness

THE SUCCESS of a company depends on the supervisor's effectiveness in leading and motivating the employees in the organization. The supervisor is the key implementer of the company's plans and programs.

To be effective, one must be equipped with management skills and qualities as well as technical expertise. This will enhance the company's competitiveness through the improvement of product quality and labor productivity.

PTTC for modern company supervisors, section heads, foremen and future supervisors to the Seminar on Supervisory Effectiveness for Improved Productivity on March 5-7, 2007 at Seminar Room 8, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg.

The seminar will cover topics on: The Organization and Supervision, Planning, Organizing, Leading, and Controlling, Time Management, 5S of Good Housekeeping, and Principles of Total Quality Management (TQM).

For inquiries call the Training and Inquiries Section at tel. nos., 818 1344-49 or fax at no. 818-1343.

5S of good housekeeping

ON MARCH 16, 2007 at 1 to 5, it will hold a 5S seminar in Seminar Room 8, second floor of the PTTC Bldg. 5S is a structured and systematized approach to housekeeping which is the cornerstone of an organization. It is a simple and low-cost-to-operate tool to reduce waste, improve productivity and promote quality, safety and employee morale.

It is one of the most basic quality and productivity tools that an organization should adopt to compete in today's highly globalized market. For inquiries, call 818-1344 to 49 local 305/306 or fax at no. 818-1343.

Total Quality Management

COMMANDER all over the world recognize that quality is the only way to survive long term competition. Total quality control is imperative to apply quality management in an organization where everyone is committed to do the right thing, the first time and at all times, with the aim of satisfying the customers.

A seminar-cum-Total Quality Management will be held on March 15-16, 2007 at the Seminar Room 6, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg. For inquiries call, 894-1344 to 49 or 911-7107 or fax at no. 894-1343.

The 2-day seminar will cover topics on: The Historical Perspective of Quality, The Philosophical Perspective of Quality Service Organization, What is Quality?, Who is the Customer?, Quality Myths, Progressive Quality Improvement Process, 14 Commandments of TQM, The Principles of TQM, Organizing and Implementing TQM, Barriers to TQM Implementation, and Quality Mastery Profile.

Effective purchasing system

PTTC will conduct a seminar on an Effective Purchasing System on March 13 at the Seminar Room B, 2nd Floor of the PTTC Bldg. Our Target participants are procurement personnel, managers and suppliers.

The seminar will cover topics on: Strategic Purchasing and Supplier Management, Purchasing Procedures, Supply Positioning and Management, Framework of Total Quality Purchasing, Supplier Quality Management Model, Supplier Certification, ISO 9000 & Purchasing Strategy for Implementation, and Legal Aspects of Contracts. For inquiries and registration, please contact the Training-Business Management Division at tel.

Few leave Batangas without this knife

Couple inherits generations-old 'balisong' trade

By Marisa Alejandro Lantin
Inquirer Southern Luzon

POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE Batangas blade, the balisong was introduced in 1905 by Precinto de Leon of Barangay Bolbok using steam metal of flat type of lawyer's car mounted.

De Leon's equivalent with the Mainland knife, known as the Ilks, inspired him to create the country's first balisong made of fan blade but with rounded edges.

He first coined the term fan knife for balisong since the knife could easily be folded, opened or closed much like the native fan. In an engraved fanal, the balisong could be flipped or twirled faster than a Western switch blade.

The word balisong literally means broken horn. Some tribes speak "bali," which means to break and "sung," which means horn. Up to this day, however, no one could tell whether the name balisong originated from the neighbors of Barangay Balisong or the village got its name from the blade itself.

Good lore says that it was part of De Leon's lifestyle to carry the balisong with him wherever he may. Some people around him acquired the same habit.

"Balisong is a trademark of the Balisongtanin or Batanin. You may have your wallet but not your balisong," says Tuel tourism officer Orly Hernandez.

Hernandez recalled that during the martial law years, from 1974 to 1981, sale of balisong to the public was prohibited by the government. But some blacksmiths managed to manufacture the fan knives via the underground economy.

Depending on the balisong's size, quality and additional product designs, prices could range from P100 to P2,500.

The largest balisong on sale measures at 72 inches while the smaller ones are 3½ inches long in the form of key chain.

EMCEES time have number variety are the ones that survive.

The biggest balisong ever recorded was at 6 meters, which was presented by Barangay Balisong at the Sinaman ng Tuel Festival, as its native product.

Customers generally come by the "high tech" blade, which is used in combat-ing, while others look for the Batanin style and double blade.

To test the blade's sharpness, some customers would usually hack the blade onto a raw pata cow.

If the blade delivers a hole on the cow and doesn't show signs of damage or if it doesn't break, blacksmiths would assure its quality is sharp enough. Otherwise, they would assume the blades could either be fake or of low quality.

Surviving in the trade

The high cost of operations and low return of investments have prompted balisong makers to quit the business. Isaacs like Villamorca, 65, who, with husband Hector, ventured into the Balisong business six years ago upon seeing great income from it.

Today, stores watch a variety of balisong models as the ones who usually survive the competition. Lito "Boyboy" Ramos of Batangas would not be complete without bringing home a balisong."

With P20,000 start-up capital, the couple are up a small tent to be able to display and obtain an array of balisong models to choose from, ranging from the classic kris and "labaha" types to the modern Rambo style.

The blade of the latter type is said to be used by rebels in shoring their bunch while the Rambo style was inspired by the hunting knife used by Hollywood actor Sylvester Stallone in action movies.

Inner spine has never exceeded to accommodate fiber glass made animate for other such items as the "bugis tuel," key chain balisong and the double blade models.

Aside from the name laid-long, the couple also sells to-only made bamboo knives, "sumpit," "fish" and other product lines, which could be found hanging in their highway store.

With P20,000 start-up capital, the couple are up a small tent to be able to display and obtain an array of balisong models to choose from, ranging from the classic kris and "labaha" types to the modern Rambo style.

LIZA Villanueva and husband Norbert climbed to their pain to become entrepreneurs.

Entre Talk

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Leadership economy

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN THE CONSUMERIST MARKETS, SAID Marx, magical as water would hand upon its choice of economics. He envisioned a "utopian world" where everyone received equal shares, and lived without competition.

In Marx's communist system, government would oversee the utopian economy. In person, the theory was given—in practice, in fact, has shown the economic model of communism into salvation.

In Wealth of the Nations, Adam Smith popularized a different theory: an economic free enterprise. He had the intellectual framework that explained the free market which still holds sway today.

Smith coined the expression "the invisible hand," which he used to demonstrate how self-interest guides the most efficient use of resources in a nation's economy. He argued that government efforts to promote social good are inherently counterproductive to the unbridled market forces of commerce.

Smith became the key influencer of Western economic theory. He often analyzed the present US economy—an economy based on supply and demand. His system dialed require a "big brother" government to ensure its success. Instead, it was governed by the natural forces of a free market.

Supply and demand

I believe even in Barnum's operation of supply and demand" principles to the free market economy. Leadership should not have to be forced on a group of people.

Someone who leads by coercion or manipulation isn't a healthy leader. Healthy influence is based upon providing a resource that is needed by a group.

When you possess that resource, your influence goes up, just like a stock price goes up when a company is providing goods or services that are in demand.

Leader's influence acts like capital

If leadership, like the marketplace, functions according to the laws of supply and demand, then let us ponder what kind of capital we might have that will increase our influence with others.

1. Intellectual capital

Because of the category includes knowledge on a particular subject, insight and information, a great asset, or does not a relevant asset. When someone puts their intellectual capital into a tangible form, it becomes what attorneys call "intellectual property." If it is universal relevant...it will be valuable.

Here is seven plans intellectual capital:

(1) Study and know your business.

(2) Think more than others about your business.

(3) Think about solutions and share them with others.

2. Social capital

Resources that represent social capital are the relationships and respect a person has built up over the years within their network. Social capital comes from interacting with others in a healthy way and adding value to them individually as well as professionally...especially in times of need.

Here is seven plans on social capital:

(1) Value people and relationships.

(2) Look for the key to build greater value.

(3) Become a networker and connect people together.

(4) Seize every opportunity to add value to others.

3. Experiential capital

Resources in this category include past origin stories, a good track record accompanied by a strong work ethic, integrity, and sound post decision-making. Experiential capital is akin to intellectual capital, but not identical. This capital is the intuitive wisdom that comes from one experience rather than the kind of knowledge found in books.

Here is seven plans experiential capital:

(1) Find your niche and dig in ... don't hop around.

(2) Dedicate your experiences.

(3) Build on your experiences, don't camp on them.

4. Talent capital

Resources that fall within talent capital are the abilities a person has to pull off a desired goal. When we experience wants to produce a good or render a service, it has need for specific talents—graphically, technically, physically, organizationally—and the person with those talents can meet the weight.

While talent is never enough, it is a good place to start.

Here is seven plans talent capital:

(1) Discover your top three strengths.

(2) Dig to your strengths zone.

(3) Let your talent can add value to the team.

(4) Stretch your strengths zone.

5. Creativity capital

Resources that represent creativity capital are creative thinking, the aptitude to merge two current ideas into a new one, the capacity to communicate a thought originally and persuasively, and the ability to invent new products, methods, services, or strategies.

Here is seven plans on creativity capital:

(1) Develop a creative mind-set.

(2) Continually ask, "Is there a better way to do what we are doing?"

(3) Continually ask, "Is someone else doing it a better way?"

6. Passion capital

Finally, this capital is about the "galaxy" of a person. Leaders with passion capital carry weight because of their strong personality and charisma. They bring to the table endless energy, enthusiasm and determination as they first magnetically draw others to them. Passion energizes talent, both individually and collectively.

Here is seven plans passion capital:

(1) Discover your strengths.

(2) Hang around passionate people.

(3) Live your passion every.

Summary

Leadership is driven around the timeless principles of supply and demand. Your influence as a leader will be proportionate to the "hard-to-find capital" you bring to an organization. Cultivate your leadership capital wisely, and you'll be flooded with opportunities to invest it in a leadership environment hungry for healthy leaders.

For information on John Maxwell, email us at bizgal@inq7.net or call 892-3049 (732 ext.) [illegible]

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City in Bloom

SMART celebrates Panagbenga 2007

No other event captures the rich character of Baguio better than the *Panagbenga*, also known as the *Baguio Flower Festival*. In the Kankanaey language, *Panagbenga* means "a season of blossoming," and for a few weeks during the breezy month of February, the entire city of Baguio blooms finest with beautiful flowers set against the natural grace, talent, and spirit of its highland communities.

Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART), the country's leading wireless services provider, honored the people of Baguio during this year's much-awaited celebration, highlighted by the Grand Festival Parade of over 30 flower-adorned floats. The parade delighted spectators and drew attention to the exquisite flowers grown around the region and the innate creativity of the Cordillera people.

SMART and Baguio give rise to Panagbenga

The SMART and *Panagbenga* partnership dates back to the creation of the festival. Lawyer Damaso Bangayan, head of the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc., recognizes SMART's significant contribution to the conception of Panagbenga in the mid-90s. SMART having been the only telecommunications company that believed in the purpose of the festival. The relationship has since grown stronger and continues to flourish as SMART steadily provides a wide array of wireless services that enhance the *Panagbenga* experience, year after year, for locals and tourists alike.

This year, for the first time in *Panagbenga*, SMART SMS polling allowed the public to help choose the best festival float. Visitors voted for their favorite float by texting PANAGBENGA FLOAT with the float number to 2993.

During the festival weekend, SMART made available the special *Panagbenga* low-cost, high-value call rate of only P10 for three SMART-to-SMART calls of three minutes each. The SMART Buddy SIM was offered for only P65 or three for P150. All those who purchased either a Talk 'N Text or SMART Buddy SIM plus E-load of P50 were given premium items. Those who signed up for SMART Bro during the promo period also received freebies.

SMART lets the people of Baguio

The festival vibe was kept alive with various activities all over the city. Local gamers flocked to the SMART Bro booths along Session Road to take part in an online gaming tournament. The SMART Gold Bonus Nova Night with Sitti, as well as the SMART-sponsored Bombo Radyo and Campus Radio events, attracted people of varied music interests. Finally, in what has become a SMART tradition of capping off the entire *Panagbenga* celebration with a huge concert to fete the people of Baguio, the SMART Buddy *Panagbenga* 2007 Barkada Party was held at the Melvin Jones football field, and featured the country's top bands Bamboo and Kamikazee.

Atty. Bangayan notes that *Panagbenga 2007* enjoyed increased involvement and cooperation not only from local communities but from partner organizations and corporations as well. "SMART's support truly helped make *Panagbenga* a success and we are glad to see this festival build from strength to strength and bring more enjoyment each year," he said.

Nagkakaisa sa pagbibigay ng serbisyong tunay.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

The many faces of Coron

By Genna Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Hans Villarica

THE QUIET ISLANDS OF Coron may look at its famous neighbors and feel a little celebrity envy, but being on the sidelines has its advantages.

Like most of Palawan's hotspots, Coron is largely unspoilt. Its main attractions still sport that "undiscovered" feel.

Fancy lazing about on white sandy beaches, snorkeling in swanky coral reefs, dugong watching, diving for wrecks, going on a wildlife safari or maybe taking with a bit of spelunking thrown in? All of Coron's offerings make it seem like a place eager to please. And please it does.

Filipino tourists in the area are scarce. It's highly likely few of us have heard of the place. That nearly all its visitors come from elsewhere in the world prove Coron's international drive, which for now must make up for its almost nonexistent local one.

When you arrive at Busuanga airport, there is no fuss or hint of what lies ahead. Like most other small domestic airports in the country, this one resembles a glorified airstrip. Thin, however, is no reason to fret. But the prospect of being swallowed up by the dusty road leading to town might be. So, keep some escort vehicles handy, just in case.

First stop, SeaDive

The town itself is delightfully rustic, with its usual narrow streets and noisy tricycles. Right smack in the middle is one of the most popular dive resorts in Coron: SeaDive.

Dive resorts are the typical jump-off point for most travelers—the majority of whom are divers—who flock to this corner of Palawan. Diving is definitely the main attraction in Coron, but it is only one in a long list.

The popularity of the kind of resort (dive-dedicated, simple set-up, basic amenities), one that sets more like a home base in between dives, may also be due to the lack of things to do in town.

Town life is simple, and the nightlife even more so. Lemon nightclub, a few eateries and karaoke joints await you. Thank heavens for SeaSilkers Bar; it's a good place to land for post-excursion drinks. Other than climbing the 706 cold steps to the top of Mount Tapyas, a visit to the Maquinit saltwater hot springs and a trip to the market (which moved one to its freshest present), that's about it.

The land time forgot

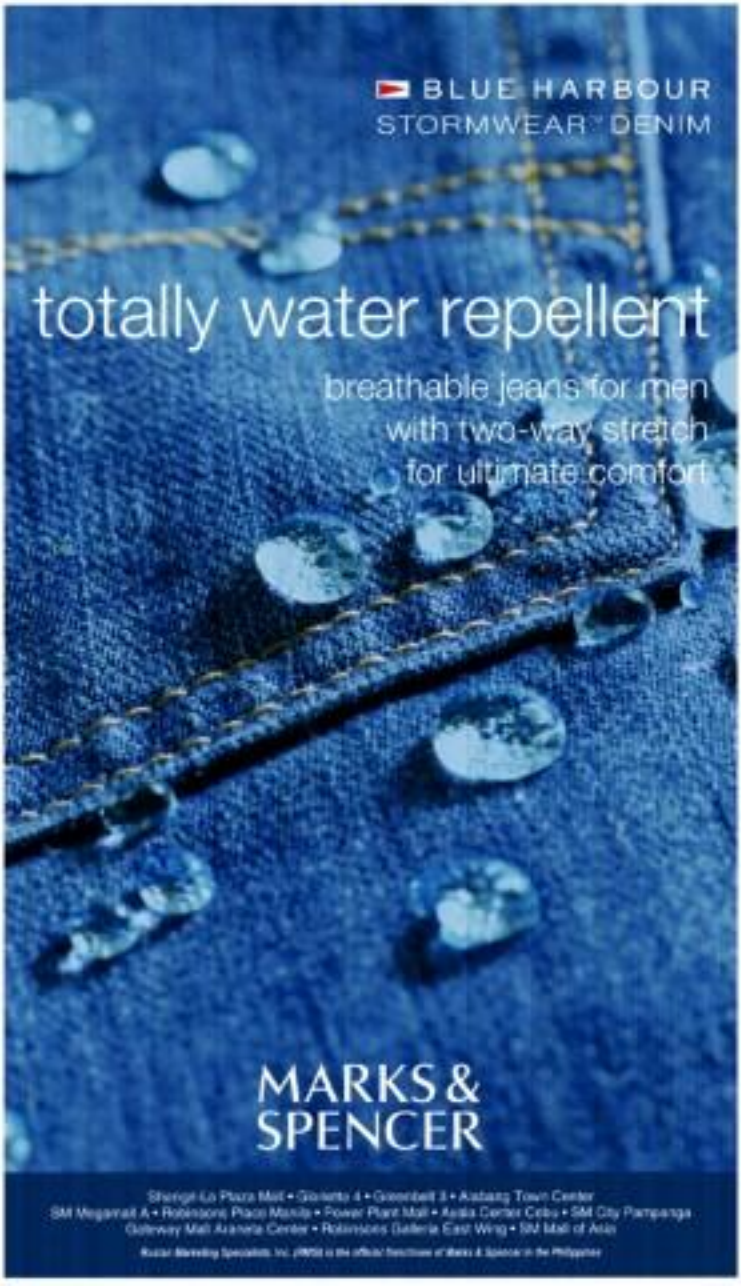
Need a little adventure to spice up your trip? If diving World War II wrecks or underwater caves doesn't do it for you, a trek to Coron Island just may do the trick. Coron Island is part of the Municipality of Coron just might. Aside from being part of an area ripe for ecotourists (due to its excellent biodiversity—Coron Island is home to a number of endemic flora and fauna), the island's allure rests heavily on the incredible beauty of its seven lakes.

The island's most dominant feature, its limestone cliffs, greet visitors like a cinematic backdrop. They are, after all, of Jurassic origin, 65 million years in the making. If you have time to do just one thing in Coron, then visit Kayangan Lake.

In 1998, Coron Island was declared to be an ancestral domain of the Tagbanua, its indige-

TO PAGE C2

LIMESTONE cliffs of Coron Peninsula



CORAL shores approach to Sangat Island

HANGING homestage route to Sangat's secluded villa in Lumbingan Beach

The many faces of Coron

ISLAND HOPPING (Start)

From page C1

more people who have since been awarded its care and management. Currently, they collect a P200 fee from visitors wanting to enter Kayangan.

At a concession to safety, a concrete jetty has been built into the rocky limestone shore leading to Kayangan Lake, before passing through the small cave entrance, visitors must read the rules posted beside it. The Tagbanuas are strict and protective of the lake's status as the cleanest tinted body of water in the country.

Leading to the lake is a 10- to 15-minute trek up and down uneven steps carved into the hillside. There are wooden handrails fixated not for that splinter waiting to happen to help wizened travelers along. At the bottom, the view of the lake slowly emerges, framed by overhanging vines and branches. What comes after brings to mind the true definition of "awesome." The lake is so beautiful, so tranquil it can move one to worship.

A similar vibe awaits one at Barracuda Lake, except in that case you have to climb

A DIPARYA Island native greets the visitors at Club Paradise.

along limestone "steps"...a very loose definition of the word—to reach it.

In search of the beach

After the feel of sand between your toes? Coron has more picturesque sandy beaches than you can point your little digital camera at. There are Banol, CYC, Malacapaya and Banana Island, to name a few.

If your idea of roughing it is to leave your wedge sandals on the boat, there is hope for you, yes. Two places that stand out from the standard resorts and floors with just the bare essentials are Sangat Island Reserve and Club Paradise.

The Sangat Island Reserve pretty much has it all. Its location and features make it a well-rounded destination; many of the WW II wreck dives are very near the island's beach. The ambience is cozy and relaxed, the rooms modulous simple yet comfortable.

There are only a few cottages and one secluded villa. British owner Andy Fretwell—whose remarkable Tagalog can shock you—has pulled off a good balance between ruggedness, the island's commercial outlook and keeping its pristine beauty barely touched.

Aside from its beaches, Sangat also has nature walks, snorkeling, bird-watching, cave exploration and its very own geothermal hot spring.

Club Paradise is synonymous to Dimaliot Island and its 700-meter stretch of fine, white-sand beach. The accommodations are the most luxurious in Coron, and the facilities probably the most complete. The resort has a well-packed program of activities for divers and non-divers alike. It features a lagoon, a hiking trail, tennis courts and lookout posts affording panoramic views of the neighboring islands.

If you've been stuck with the notion that you would see Palawan only if it were hand-in-hand with five-star accommodations and their matching price tag, happiness is finding out otherwise, thanks to Coron.

Palawan pointers

- Pack a pair of outdoor sandals. Okay, so your favorite pair of flowerpots is cute and goes with everything, but it won't be of much use to you when you're sliding down the slippery steps to Kayangan Lake or the sharp coral leading to Barracuda Lake. Coral anchor wounds are up to scratch and are reasonably priced, so don't mind shelling a few extra bucks if you don't own a pair.
- Slap on the mosquito repellent. Nothing sweet get the buzzing insects off your backs. Let a generous amount of insect

SUNRISE BEACH. Sea-view cottages of Club Paradise

SWEET SUITE. The most luxurious accommodations in Coron

CANDID shot of a Coronian

VIEW From the top. Every other seat in a window seat on this 19-seater Seair plane to Busuanga

repellent do that for you. Whether the myth that Palawan mosquitoes just laugh off Off Insect is true or not, it's better to be safe than sick and sorry.

- Mind your cash. Although most of the bigger resorts accept credit cards, there is only one ATM machine and it is located in town, so manage your cash prudently.

Special thanks to Gov. Joel Reyes of Palawan, Mayor Mercy Reyes of Coron, Councilor Jim Ty, Lessie Cruz, South East Asian Airlines Deals Travel, Seir and Pto de Villa of Sout, SeaNet and Club Paradise.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcarse

Lady of Manaoag replica at NY Philippine Center

AT LEAST 20 RELIGIOUS IMAGES WILL BE exhibited by Filipino sculptor Cornelio "Tonton" Asis Jr. at the Philippine Center in New York March 26-April 6.

In the course of the exhibit a the replica image of Our Lady of Manaoag, patroness of Pangasinan.

Bonifon Asis and his wife Josie Bonifacio Asis are making this special exhibit because they are devotees of the Virgin of Manaoag. They even named their store on Sycamore Street, Bo. Obrero, Our Lady of Manaoag Religious Articles.

So a young girl in Apalit, Pampanga, Josie went by bus to Manaoag to pray to the Virgin. She was able to finish her teacher's degree at the National Teachers College by "buying and selling" religious products. Then, she was able to raise money to open a small store.

Bonifon was a student at the University of Santo Tomas pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts degree, major in painting. To support himself, he apprenticed with mantle sculptors of religious images.

After college, in 1985, Bonifon did some repairs and restorations. He honed his skills in sculpture using wood and resin as media.

The sculptor's replica of Our Lady of Manaoag is resin looks like the image enthroned in the altar in Manaoag Church. It is also but a replica of the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The exhibit, "Mga Inanong Nilikha sa Kamay," is timely for Pilipinohon in New York with the coming Lenten season.

Mary's land

Tierra Maria is a 10-hectare residential farm subdivision in Lipa City. A stone image of Our Lady of All Nations, as well as different statues of the Virgin Mary including Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces, welcomes visitors at the gate. There are also images of St. Joseph, the Holy Family, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Louis de Montfort, among others.

Developed by Mary's Garden Realty, Tierra Maria features fun treats and all kinds of inspiration. Visitors can ask to visit by calling 7150505 or sending text messages to 0917-8940228 or 0917-4124941.

Centenary

The children of Dr. Victoria Lopez Acuncia, founder of White Cross Orphanage, will mark the centenary of her birth on March 8 at White Cross Orphanage with the unveiling at 10 a.m. by the National Historical Institute of a marker in her honor.

The late Doctor Acuncia, wife of the late Dr. Salvador Acuncia, founded White Cross 78 years ago. During the occasion, White Cross children will blow one 100 candles. Right now the orphanage has 113 children.

The White Cross initially started as a convent for children of parents with tuberculosis. The institution was a brainchild of Dr. Salvador Acuncia. Victoria turned his idea into reality and, with the financial and moral support of Iloilo Alexander McMicking, White Cross was established in 1927.

All kinds of children—foundlings, neglected and abandoned—are accepted. The orphanage also has a daycare center and is an accredited adoption agency.

Pilgrimage

The Philippine Center for St. Pio of Pietrelcina Inc. and Adam's Travel, through its chair Rafael Ortigas Jr., president Ramon and wife Imi Rodriguez, are organizing a grand pilgrimage to St. Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo May 9-21.

Call Tel. at (02) 9504410 or Adam's Travel at 522-1851, or text Ana at 0916 8988676.

Beautiful music

We were able to listen recently to beautiful piano compositions by Robert Schumann on the Great of Steve Park. International concert pianist Leonor Klaglin played Schumann's "Arabeske" Op. 18 and "Kinderszenen" Op. 20 in the Philippine Cultural Month.

Canonization

Pilipa Mother Elizia Eugenia de Jesus was beatified in 1975 by Pope Paul VI. Mercy Bonifacio brought pilgrims to Rome through Philippine American Travel. Little did she know she would one day need Blessed Maria Eugenia's intercession for the miraculous healing of her daughter Rina whose illness left her blind and unable to move.

Now that Blessed Maria Eugenia, founder of the Religious of the Assumption, will be canonized on June 3, in Rome, Mercito will bring Rina in thanksgiving for the miracle.

The child is now a normal Grade IV student at Assumption College. Those wanting to join the trip to Rome can call Mercito at 0922134/18 or text 0918-8988676.

Msgr. Jesuito Reyes, parish priest of Bitanga Church, was the judge advocate who studied for the canonization of blessed Maria Eugenia through the miracle granted to Rina Bonifacio. He went to the United States to interview Rina's doctors. The miracle was the one considered by the Congregation of Saints for the canonization.

Msgr. Jesuito, by the way, marked recently his 52nd anniversary as a priest. Sixteen priests concelebrated with him. At least 200 people attended the Mass and reception at the Emperor's Villa arranged by Erning Inocencio.

OUR LADY Mediatrix of All Grace on the Marian Park in Tierra Maria Estate

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FILIPINO: sculptor artist Bonifacio Asis with Our Lady of Manaoag

Travel Briefs

MAKASSING BATANES PHOTO SAFARI SEEKING APRIL 1

Photographer Mandy Manzano is organizing another Batanes photo safari April 5-7, 12-15, and May 3-6. Manzano is inviting interested parties to join the photo safari, organized in cooperation with Asian Spirit, the only airline that flies to Basco daily except Wednesday, and the Batanes Seaside Lodging and Restaurant. This year, the Batanes photo safari aims to contribute to the restoration of a Batanes stone house through the Basanes Heritage Foundation Inc. (BHFI). The minimum cost of a major restoration of a stone house is P150,000. BHFI (e-mail:bhfi_pi@yahoo.com) is trying to save 1,150 stone houses that feature an environment-friendly vernacular architecture. Manzano's photo studio is at Rm. 227, LKG Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City, tel. 8911742; e-mail mandymanzano@yahoo.com.

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Explore the beauty of nature at the **Hong Kong Wetland Park** and learn more about nature, conservation and biodiversity. Truly a calming experience!

Enjoy the great rides, wonderful aquatic thrills and an astonishing dolphin show at the world famous **Ocean Park**.

Immerse in Hong Kong's dynamic nightlife in **Lan Kwai Fong** – the local party and entertainment district.

Wish so much more to do and see in Asia's world city, come discover and fall in love with the diversity and sophistication that is truly Hong Kong. Live it every season. Love is forever!

For more information on Hong Kong, please visit DiscoverHongKong.com

GOLF AIR showcased its products and services during the recent 11th Travel Tour Expo at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Among those featured were the award-winning sky chefs, wider and longer sky beds, luxurious premium cabins, sky nanny and frequent flyer programs. Roberto Pedemonte (center), country manager, is shown with the airline's sales agents at Golf Air's booth.

Summer weekend tours

Expanding Travel Plans, is offering two package tours for summer: Island Tour Sensation, a combination land-and-sea tour to Bohol, Cebu and Boracay, Philippines March 10-18. Join the Batanes ecotrekker adventure March 23-25. Seats are still available for these tours and sports-oriented adventures in Cagayan. Get schedules and rates at the Travel and Tourism Fair March 17.

Or Holy Week, April 3-8, choose from the scheduled trips to Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley, Palawan adventure, Puerto Princesa and Underground Rivers, and Bohol sightseeing and chocolate hills. Call Exploretic Travel Phils. (Bonanza Bldg. 2, Commodore... Penaranda (382) at 8919001,8911540,0906-4008804 and 0921-4750160. E-mail exploretic@hotmail.com.ph).

Bora resort prepares for opening

Discovery Mactan Boracay, in cooperation with Seattle, held a two-day team-building seminar for its employees to prepare for its opening. The seminar was designed to enhance the capability of the resort's staff to assist the Waterfront Hotel of service to clients of the new resort. Teambuilding, stand by Training, Events and Meetings Organizers Inc., is a corporate events organizer specializing in designing and conducting team-building seminars and other corporate activities.

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AGL Suites (No. 72 11th Ave., Cubao, QC; tel. 913-2323-26) is 5-10 min's fr the many from the Araneta Coliseum/Gil Cerdeo. It's near provincial bus and other public transport terminals. Light rail and metro stations are also near by. Airport shuttle is available.

Two new resorts in Cavite

Mount Sea Resort is the new (name) hotel resorts in the Southern Tagalog region. Two are fully operational. Mount Sea Manila Resort in Bacoor, Cavite, and Mount Sea Quezon Resort, nearly opened, in Lopez, Tayabas, Quezon.

Mount Sea Grand Resort has 124 executive all-suited suites inside an all-in-one beach property. Guest rooms are classified into superior, deluxe, deluxe-family, junior and executive. Mount Sea Grand has F&B venues, the Asian home-place Tanghalan, and international grill place The Grand Grill. It has four-themed pool with pool-level chalet in it as well as highlight of Mount Sea. It and Mount Sea Family Resort is a full-size hotel complete with function and conference rooms. Designed with Filipino hospitality and local and international theme in mind, MSFR's hotel rooms are classified into super or suit deluxe. Rates (Chinese restaurant, Tangerine) are P2,975 suites (Mediterranean restaurant) is P2,098, also with the Waterfront family pool. For reservations info (special packages and group rates) e-mail, call 09155001xx, 239-2491, or e-mail info@mountsearesorts.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

STC ED PEARL '77. Seated: Pamela Tan-Pe Benito, Marivic Victoria-Tapucla, Lyra Rufino-Macuda, Fe Sebastian, Cecile Lim-Lucasin, Marie Franco, Marcie Lopez-Miral, Lia Amaro-Cruz. Standing: Jena Silva-Castro, Pauline Luciano-Jimenez, Tess Princesa, Karen Hsiao-Talongo, Susan Tiongson-Olson, Rara Wilson-Mendoza, Carina Arcilla-Suzon

Feeling pearly and celebratory

When we Theresians celebrate our ruby anniversary five years from now, we shall be in La Cage aux Folles costumes and do back-bending choreography!

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

OUR COUNTRY IS PREDOMinantly Catholic yet we seem to be magnets for different philosophies that increase personal harmony or emotional stability. From yoga to feng shui to Kabbalah, we are masters of integrating the many into our spiritual core. In fact, the more religious we are, the more we seek to enhance our inner dimensions.

When I started my habit of sounding daily mass and doing the Wednesday novenas in Baclaran, I simultaneously got engaged to spirituality enhancement through Ashtanga yoga, with free spirit Bella Lipad, and recently, the more physically gratifying Bikram yoga, with Pax Steinfeld and Tristan Chua.

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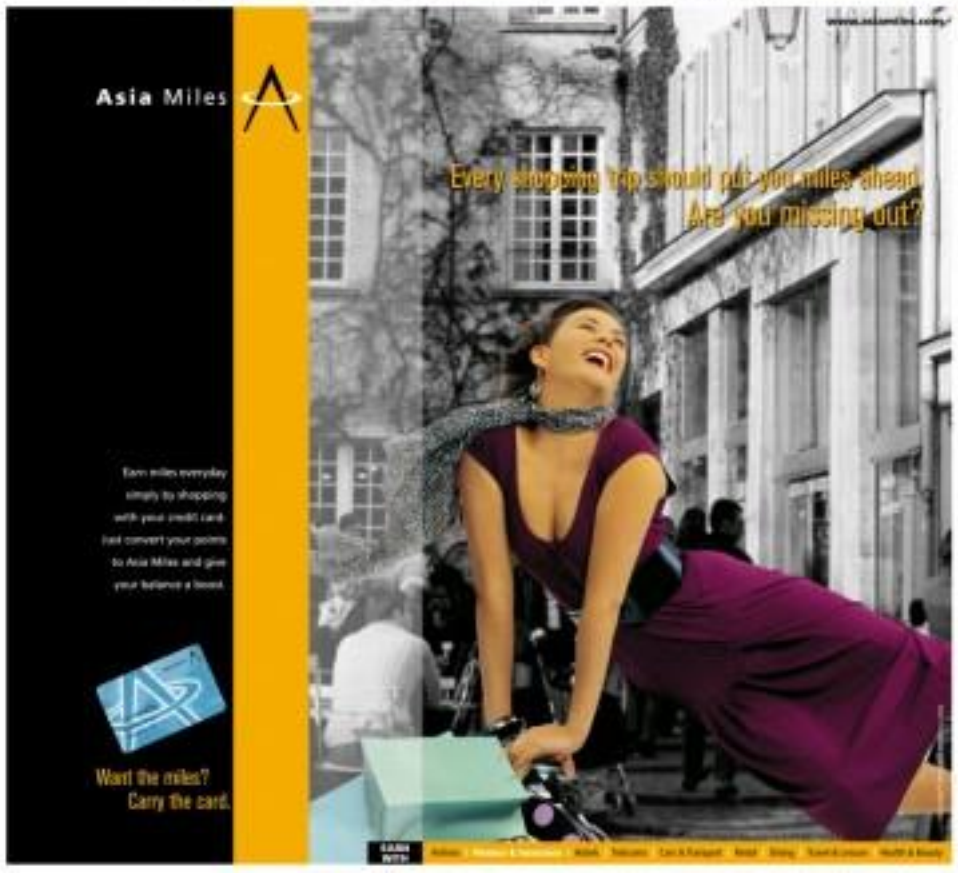


CELEBRATING: STC Manila High School Pearl '77 with good friend Tony Antonio Singson

AMERICAN Express Bank officers and staff with Dinoyor Freddie Sunico

AMEX senior country executive Wellington Ong and Regional Head David Wong with Lisa Duncan

Feeling pearly and celebratory

From page D1

More recently, my interest in feng shui has intensified. In our chaotic world, it's always good to be in sync with cosmic energies and enhance our lives via alignment with our auspicious or lucky stars.

At American Express (Amex) Bank's recent New Year appreciation dinner at the Manila Peninsula ballroom, the celebration integrated Chinese astrology with the country's most talented artists, from soprano and pop singers to classical and hip-hop dancers.

The Year of the Fire Boar is especially good for those born on the Year of the Goat, Monkey and Rooster. The grand prize winners of the raffle, who took home two round-trip Cathay Pacific Business-Class tickets to Beijing, were born in the Year of the Ox, a sign that is inconsistent with one of the most auspicious this year. Perhaps he negotiated his luck by loading up at a World of Feng Shui shop.

"Lololo mimo" was also the 30th-or pearl anniversary of doors in the Philippines. Pretty mother-of-pearl jewelry boxes in elegant Chinese pouches were given away to guests and members – the true pearls of the bank.

For the dividing ceremony after the Lion Dance, Amex Bank regional head David Wong and senior director and country executive Wellington Ong were called for the age-old tradition, which signifies the bringing of enlightenment, wisdom and productivity. As David so aptly put it: "This was a tangible expression of the bank's desire to continue serving its members for the next 30 years and beyond."

Cebbie Mendoza Trinidad-Santos artistically directed the show with her flair for drama and witty humor. It was reminiscent of our Assumption Velada show. Jam Gershon-Uy thought I was down with Assumption envy, but a subtle hint I just realized I am part of Ateneo School Pearl '77. Truly a pearl coincidence!

Thawsian gig

Just when I thought I was all excited about Thawsian, I got a call from a former grade-school classmate in St. Theresa's College (STC), Anita Silverio Cuenco, inviting me to the homecoming of STC Manila. According to her, we are part of the celebration because we are the last batch graduating from the school way ahead out. Hmm, we represent the STC GS Pearl '77. I had no idea that the school closed after we left and as a member of my STC classmates moved to Assumption for high school.

A good-enough-to-blackmail yearbook was being passed around with hilarious tag shots of metaphor-pors in STC blue uniforms. The loudest laughter among the Thawsians at the Peach Plaza Greenbelt Club ballroom was from our table. Many of us had not seen each other in decades!

STC was my alma mater from Grades 5-7, when Assumption Convent was converted into the Ateneo Colleges Hall. With STC Manila also gone, the catholic-girls era now held all-campus, unlike the normal STC Queen City that has its big homecoming every February.

I felt like a friendly intruder at the celebration since there were so many "We're from Assumption!" reminisces. A few bright sophisticates though, I was warmly welcomed. I told my grade school batch that came ruby celebration five years from now, we should dominate the event. They looked both excited and horrified at the potential threat. Sibol with La Cage aux Folles extravaganza and back-bending choreography!

On my way out, I bumped into another the most famous graduate of the school, former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo. She is actually a member of one of my book clubs, Tessa Rocas-Paul. I am trying to somehow tone a beauty lineage from Margie to me, but I guess her beauty genes come from the in-law side of the family. The real Miss can be seen in Margie's pretty daughters, now on the cover of the latest Ideya issues.

As I took her class photos, I noticed another familiar face. PR wiz Girlie Sudia has been Margie's classmate since Grade 1. Girlie is my supplier of suggested books to read. And if I don't have time, I read electronically through her. Her latest pick from National Bookstore and Fullbooks is "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne. This inspirational tome focuses on visualization to capture dreams, wishes and desires. The universe does not recognize negative or positive; it answers to the thoughts come through. So by thinking positive and sending off the right signals, things happen.

McDo's class philosophy

In one I am thinking that eating my favorite french fries from McDonald's is not bad at all. It is, after all, my comfort food. At the McDonald's Open Doors Program, students-day moms were invited to go behind the scenes and see firsthand the food quality and highly sanitized food stations.

McDo has always focused on delivering quality, service, cleanliness and value. The crew watch their hands every hour and sanitize every 20 minutes. They also wear different gloves per area and even use color-coded spatulas. And now, in the spirit of transparency, it's all there for us to see.

Ever going beyond, McDonald's head Bernardo Tiang has incorporated numerous charity projects focused on less privileged children into their corporate programs. Aware you are, even McDonald's knows that good deeds and positive thinking must be part of their corporate philosophies.

Let me end this week with a special congratulations to my sister, Sandy, who just gave birth to Salvador Alexander Mercurio, the third son. Mom and baby are doing very well and I can hardly wait to get cuddled with his fine pates. I can already see it—a baptism integrated with yoga and feng shui themes.

E-mail us at sspinoy@inquirer.com.ph.

AMEX: Sandy Caron Eason, Nenita Estrellon, Thea Tan, Aria Tongo, Gil Lazarte, Claudia Lim, Jeanie Yap and Reggie Ramirez

STC Manila HS '76 Tita Tessa Rocas-Paz, Pristy Nielson, Golly Barcenas and Mae Arroyo

HEALTHY friends Rose Grassi, healer Vilda Chan and Ayurveda couple Paige and Ryan Ambrose

HKS University Class (STC HS Class '71)

CELEBRITY moms Jackielou Blanco, Mariteal Fernandez and Faye Agulto

RONALD McDonald with his royal couple Cindy and Kenneth Tong

McDONALD'S happy crew behind the counter

GUEST crew Vince and Shaun Rivas, Chique Roa and Faye Agulto with Ronald

PDCSD Sandy Bernaldez's new addition Nicholo Alexander Mercurio

PLDT couples Jake and Mariteal Ulchico

MCDALO CLASS performers Bo Corvalan and Rachelle Bercades

BANK friends Cesar and Joy Virata

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — TAKEN IN

answer on page E6

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marvelo

Unconsummated passion

DEAR EMILY,

I am a professional. I am in my 40s and I have a certain fascination with an office mate.

I have not gone for with this woman, but I am "mentally inflow" nonetheless. My personal experience is an example of how easy it is to say, watch or think [of her and me being together]. Yet it is so difficult to put my thoughts or wishes into action.

I know it is not right, but I am not willing to stop at this point. There is an inexplicable high when ever I am with her or just electronically connected to her.

This is not to say I feel less for my wife now, but it seems I am in a different world with this other woman. I have no intentions of getting into a more serious commitment with her.

Besides, just as a common workplace brought us together, physical separation will probably end whatever relationship we have. She is due to leave for the United States later this year. Any comments about my situation?

WILL

Your letter is cryptic as much as it is vague. What exactly did you want for us anyway?

This woman gives you a certain high and you are cocky enough to believe that everything will end the moment she leaves for another country. Hurray for you!

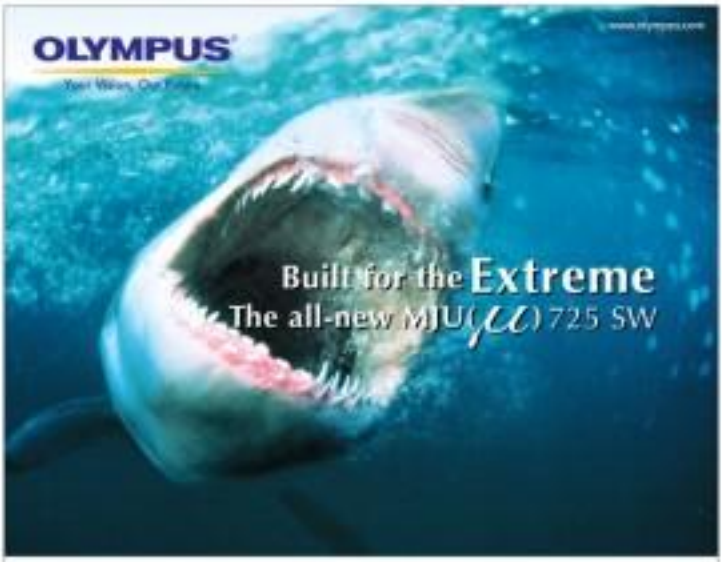
Apparently you have not heard or you probably just shrug off the saying "absence makes the heart grow fonder."

There is something about your letter that suggests boredom. Could this cosmic "ufair" and its admirable craft make you get out of bed and give you the indulgence of a high?

It may seem benign to you now, whatever it is that is eating you up, but do not underestimate the power of suggestion, or the power of a subliminal craving.

You may think you have the goods to thrust your manroo now, but what if your aspirations involving her creator a rollercoaster from of mind and wreak havoc on your emotions later because of non-consummation? What then? Would you be so smug?

E-mail the author at emarvelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Emily Marvelo, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor, Inquirer Building, 70 Benavidez St., Binondo, Manila 1003. Emily Marvelo hosts the program "Kaliluan Tigbauu," 7:15-8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzRB 594 AM.



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The Eyes Of OLYMPUS

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple (only) ahead of the bridegroom. If easy to the Features, PO. Box 2203 Makati Central Post Office 1203 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

LAMITAN-LUCIO

Rohjih Lamit, son of Erme and Evangeline Lamit, will wed Christel Reyes, daughter of Roberto and Carolyn Reyes, on March 11, at the Rotunda Auditor, University of the Philippines Diliman, QC. Nik Pinole designed the bride's gown in ivory silk chiffon. It has asymmetrical pleated bodice naked with beadwork and French lace embellished with faux pearls, cubic beads and crystals. A floor-length veil cathedral-length trailed double chapel train completes the ensemble.

YUMUL-UY

Dr. Allen Dayrit Yumul, son of engineer Orlando and Leonie Yumul, will wed Dr. Alejandra del Rosario Uy, daughter of Dr. Antonio and Socorro Uy, on March 10, at the Manresa Basilica of San Sebastian. Edward Tong designed the bridal gown.

SUNGA-CANCINO

Christian Joaquin, son of engineer Sergio and Silvia (nee de Leon) Sunga, recently married Kathrina Cancino, daughter of professor Cardino and Victoria Cancino, on St. Peter's Parish Church, Commonwealth Ave., QC. Reception followed at the Imperial Palace Suites. Lloyd Arnaiz designed the bridal gown.

NERI-MANALUTAC

Ryan Neri, son of Elmer and Marilou Neri, will wed Kamea Jill Manalutac, daughter of Ricardo and Nympha Manalutac, on March 8, at Sts. Marie Gemma Parish in Paco, Manila. Reception followed at Pearl Garden Hotel in Makati.

GUMAYAN DEBUT

Rachel Marie Gumayan, daughter of Ronald and Gracelina Gumayan, recently had her debut at the Manresa Garden, Cebu City. She is a second-year BS Management Accounting student of Central Philippines University, Iloilo City.

JAVIER-ALAMO

Engineer Jeffrey Sarmiento Javier, son of Bienvenido and Amelia Javier, will wed engineer Charm Lou Longcop Mateo, daughter of Ruben and Veneranda Mateo, on March 16, at the Lakeview garden of Days Hotel Tagaytay.

ULEP-IDOG

Ferdinand Ulep, son of Ino. and Mr Elpidio Ulep, will wed Jeremadette Idog, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Idog, at 4:30 p.m., April 14, at Mary Immaculate Parish (Barrio's Church), Apollo II St., Mountain Village, Tuba-C Los Baños.

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Top floral stylists in wedding expo

THREE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP floral stylists will be featured in the 18th Wedding Expo Philippines, March 10-11, at the Philippine International Convention Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

Robert Blancaflor, Henry Pascual and Tony Rodriguez style up-and-coming events like weddings and debuts. Their extensive influence fits ambiances of three special occasions.

Blancaflor, Pascual and Rodriguez make it a point to understand their clients' personality and create an impression suited to it.

With these three "magicians," there are no unusual flowers. They are able to obtain and to find blooms even during the off-season and import them if necessary.

Blancaflor's work will be showcased at the main exhibit hall in Room 2. Pascual will be at Promet 5 and Rodriguez presents his 2007 layout in Foyer 1.

The three also worked on special bouquets that will serve as raffle items for expo guests.

Over 300 exhibitors are featured during the two-day event. They include fashion designers, limousine providers, souvenir makers, favorite consultants, radio artists, musicians and entertainers, coordinators and planners, jewelers, etc.

Also featured is Wedding Bazaars Manila 2007 with Rowel Canning in bead canvas. It will showcase banquet setups from the simplest to the most elaborate.

A Wedding Expo Philippines "Love Song" will be given to guests and a commemorative CD of well-loved wedding tunes will be handed out to pre-registered brides-to-reads. The CD's cover single, "You're Everything I Need," was composed by multi-awarded songwriter Vina Buenaventura.

ROBERT Blancaflor centerpiece

Event P1,000 worth of merchandise coupons to a raffle coupon. Grand prize is a honeymoon trip to Hong Kong for three days and two nights. Hourly raffles will also be held.

Wedding fair at the bay

CEBU'S NEW EVENTS AT 1 Esplanade recently presented the two-day wedding and debut fair Romancing the Bay.

Guests during the ribbon-cutting were 1 Esplanade's Kimberly Leyva and Rajat Raymundo and event sponsor Joseph Rizon.

With the theme "Weddings by the Bay, the Filipino Way," the event's highlights included a salute to pearls by Mervin Getting of Perly Channel; fashion shows featuring collections by Jeremy Amanti & and Ann and Anthony by Cassandra Ty; musical theatre by Gregory Hernandez, backed up by dancers from EDD Lights & Sounds; a parade of limousines from Robert Limbo, and cocktails and wedding dance by Cebu Exploreur's in Every.

It includes cookie, floral, gown parties a climax in wine lessons from sponsors. Lucky couples

SAMMY Amanda Jr.'s bridal collection

were home with the fabulous diamond wedding ring. Liv Rowe Boutique raffled off bridal bouquets on the last day of the fair.

Sunday LIFESTYLE at HOME

Asian jewel

A SCULPTURAL statue above and another oriental statue for a traditional affair that's uniquely modern Asian

A BUDDA from the north amid tiered tropical plants in the rear garden

Jewelry designer Wyn Wyn Ong's newly refurbished abode celebrates the spirit of the Orient

Story on page E3

FOR THE PRICE OF A HOTEL ROOM, YOU GET A FULL APARTMENT! PERFECT FOR BACKPACKERS AND OUT-OF-TOWN GIRLS VISITING. AIRCONDITIONED BEDROOMS, SPACIOUS LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN WHERE YOU CAN COOK, INTERNET CONNECTION.

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Are you fit for the role?

If you embody the Century Tuna healthy lifestyle, join the search for the 2007 Century Tuna Image Models. Come to the screen on March 1 & 8, 2007 at the Embassy Super Club, Fort Bonifacio Global City, from 9am to 10pm. The semi-finals will follow on March 8, 2007 at the SM Mall of Asia Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Both male and female grand prize winners will each receive P500,000.00 and a modeling contract from Century Tuna at the grand finals on April 29, 2007 in Boracay. Visit www.centurysuperbody.ph for details.

Come and join the fun at the Superbody Beach Fest and grand finals in Boracay and get up to 20% discount from SEAIR. Just present 20 Century Tuna labels at any SEAIR ticketing office when you reserve a flight to Boracay for April 23 to April 30, 2007.

SEAIR

Century TUNA
Flakes in Vegetable Oil
the Healthy Meat

Hurdles to organizing

By Kathleen Dag
Contributor

WHEN WILL I be happily organized?"

Here's how most make again and again. Money spent on seminars, storage containers, organizing books purchased, cereal mail highlighted. So, why do why doors not get the light at the end of the tunnel?

Here's a list of organizing obstacles almost everyone can relate to.

Problem: "I have a hard time throwing things away. It's worrying."

You don't have to throw anything out. Things you are no longer using, you can pass on to people who will benefit from them. That's not throwing out.

Consider: The 80-20 Rule. You only use 20 percent of what you own. It's more easy if items are stuck in your space gathering dust and moldy. Most unlikely benefits. In the meantime, who's getting stressed seeing all that stuff?

Problem: "But, I might need it someday!"

Problem: every right to want to keep or hold on to anything you want. After all, if you think hard enough, anything you've used for someday, somehow.

Consider: When that "someday" comes, will you even remember that you have "it"? We keep so many things and subsequently forget about them. It's okay to want to keep things, provided you can find them when you need them. If not, what's the point?

Problem: "I got over-whelmed by it all."

Too many rooms, too much stuff. It can be overwhelming. Imagine having to deal with a lifetime's worth of possessions!

Consider: We all get overwhelmed and tired. The easiest finish the area on the area, take stop and take a breath and then continue on. Don't beat yourself up. As they say, Rome wasn't built in day.

Problem: "I don't know where to start."

The bedroom? Office? Closet? Start on an area that's most frequently used. From that area, choose a spot to work on.

Consider: Your personal style. Do you prefer tackling easier jobs to help you build momentum as you go? Or do you prefer diving into the more challenging spots because, after that, everything else is easier? Whatever way you decide to move forward, the important thing is to just start. Keep at it and see it through.

Problem: "I think I have a problem or a perfectionist."

Getting obsessed with all the nitty gritty of things takes too much time and effort and will surely overwhelm you. Perfectionist is one evil reason why many people are never satisfied with their organizing efforts.

Consider: What is the "ideal"? Is it realistic? The opinions that would have are the ones that are mistaken. They not only work but are the easiest to maintain. Being organized enough is enough.

Attachment to things

Problem: "But I'm so attached to things. I'm very sentimental."

Spread items linked with special memories. Honor the keepsakes by storing them appropriately instead of stuffing them all in one corner, to be forgotten or, worse, ruined.

Consider: Taking a picture. Collect all keepsakes that are too much space things that serve as purpose except as simple remembrances. Snap! Print! The photo taken and behind it can't-shick item, items from school. Voila! You'll remember the festive without consuming space!

Problem: "I don't want to give things to just anyone."

Even if you have unwrinkable mind out the to-join event of from the to-keeps, months later you'll still have all those boxes.

Consider: It's stuff you are giving away. Time that is still kind when it's supposed to find. Pending items mean the project labored items both completed. You are blessed, let go and then move.

Problem: Failure to make decisions

For every indecision, guilt and stress by not having taken out of things pop up every time you come across the item. Then you feel bad, other and frustrate yourself.

Consider: What is holding you back from decking? Indecision equals decision. Decide, decide, decide! Make up your mind already and get it done-with! Even it from your home.

Problem: Failure to act on decisions

Decision without action is useless.

Consider: In everyone I know said, "Life is simple. There's just stuff to do. We're the ones who put so much drama into it." Following through is key.

Problem: "I don't have time."

Isn't. Pls, you do. We all have the same 24 hours. It's not that you don't have the time. It's that you choose not to make time. There's a difference.

Consider: Say I choose not to make time instead of I don't have time. There's one thing complicating. Poof! Looks time, eventually feeling the miracle.

Problem: Procrastination

If you have decided on something, it's best to act on it right away. It takes less effort to get things done and over with than to procrastinate.

Consider: What are procrastination-producing something, are preventing the agony of having undo-related tasks.

Napoleon Hill said, "Successful people are decisive." Discipline yourself to decide, act and move forward. It seems easier said than done-but, one thing says that you are ready to be disciplined and make adjustments. After the workout, you start to see results. Then you keep at it and soon you love yourself in your body. In this case, you'll love yourself in your space.

Organize your space, organize your life. www.organizedspaces.blogspot.com

TRADITIONAL and modern bathroom and toilet complete with chrome holders and water lines with hand shower head.

Bathroom essentials

A QUICK WAY TO TAKE A wide range of interesting bathroom furniture and accessories that can transform your bathroom into a place where you can relax, indulge your senses, and connect with your body and mind.

Here are some exciting new ways to liven up your bathroom from Ace Hardware:

Bathtubs and showers. For building new, whether it be a bathtub or shower, get the best for your total bathroom scheme. If you prefer to unwind by soaking in a bubble bath, you can consider a small-to-mid sized tub surrounded by decor units, or a corner tub installed with two sides exposed. If you prefer old-fashioned bathrooms, a freestanding slanted bathtub will fit superbly, while a more modern design would be a sunken tub. Better still, expect the spa experience at home with a relaxing whirlpool bathtub.

If you prefer a quick refreshing shower, you have a choice of modern shower heads like the shower-in-one, which combines shower, lighter volume with a sprinkler, and a handheld shower to clean in key areas.

Bathroom sinks. If you want to make your bathroom more functional, consider replacing your current basin with something more contemporary. Refined bathroom sinks can redesign a room visually and ensure a luxurious setting, and in petite sizes can be the perfect solution to small-to-

HYDRO-massage Whirlpool complete with corner kit, hand shower head, hydro-valve set and ceramic enamelled.

HYDRO-massage Whirlpool complete with corner kit, hand shower head, hydro-valve set and ceramic enamelled.

medium-size spaces in a premium.

Other options include countertop sinks, also known as drop-ins, undermounted sinks, which create a clean, dramatic look; and pedestal sinks which are versatile and stylish, and create a decorative focal point in any bath or powder room.

Toilets. Depending on your bathroom size, you can choose from round or long bowl toilets, which are compact to fit in small spaces, and elongated toilets, which have extra room in front for added comfort.

Mirrors. Apart from their function, mirrored surfaces instantly add a feeling of extra space to a room. Ace Hardware's selection ranges from streamlined and simple bathroom mirrors to big-bite mirrors with chrome.

Usually positioned above sinks, above vanity areas, big-bite mirrors are made with chrome-tube glass with rail-mount features, which allow extra optical mirror access over other clusters.

Bathroom accessories. Utility-modern hooks, long base rails-rails, chrome step-and integrated soap dishes create stylish accessories your bathroom.

He made it BIG

"If not for my education, it's hard to imagine how a then-single boy like me could have survived throughout college, won awards from various national competitions, and managed to land a dream career in marketing with one of the biggest and most profitable companies in the country today. Thanks, APC, for the education and most importantly, for the priceless inspiration."

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Annual Ikebana show opens Mar. 8

THE ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF Ikebana International Manila Chapter 158, which also marks its 48th anniversary, will open March 8, 2 p.m., at 2/L Grind Atrium, Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong.

Theme of this year's show is "Looking Back and Moving On."

Guests of honor for the opening ceremonies are Noriko Tomisaki, wife of the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines; Celeste Pilpa, Ikebana teacher; and Lalu Wijas, Shangri-la general manager. The exhibit is open to the public during mall hours until March 11. Admission is free. As part of the exhibit, there will be demonstrations: Sogetsu, Pilpa, 4-5:30 p.m., March 9; Ikenobo, Sengiyoshikirdis, 3-5 p.m., March 10; and Ohara, Joyce Kuhi, 3-5 p.m., March 11.

IKEBANA International president Fumio Chong with her set arrangement of mini pink heliconia. With her is Jaya Pilpa who presided over workshops and seminars.

A HOME that allows the outside in also reveals the inside out.

A BUDDHIST altar on the second floor

The exquisite and the minimalist become an unlikely but effective visual mix

BIG ON family's breakfast tableware, is the "king of the house."

Asian jewel

Text by Rina Y. Nergara
Photos by Chino Alonso

NOT A FEW PEOPLE STILL hold an eye to the minimum version that modern homes with Zen-like elements are bound to look a tad too cold and uninspiring in a tropical country like the Philippines.

Asian rich images as friends of Stella and Wyn Wyn Ong have discovered for themselves, the liberal use of space lines, huge open spaces, high walls and floor-to-ceiling glass doors can't necessarily set invitations or boredom.

Stella company, a micro-style Ong family's newly refurbished home in an exclusive village somewhere in Makati can be a rich and exhilarating experience for the eyes as well as for the soul.

It can also turn into a quick lesson on art and history, thanks to Wyn Wyn's choice collection of impressionist paintings mostly by Filipino artists.

But what the personal connection of a wide range of antique and contemporary folk art such as images of Catholic saints, Kamboyan stone jars, ceramic Vietnamese statuary and Balinese bargain baskets. The latter pieces hold a special place in her heart as Wyn Wyn's taste from the time.

"I was antiques for the simple reason that you're buying time somebody else's history," she says. "I'm always so aware of the celebration and passion certain people put into their craft."

Collaboration

The former cosmetics level allist has chosen a point into list and several porter gardens, interior-cum-thinking. After all, it's also cool interaction between one highly passionate and perhaps equally obstinate artists: Wyn Wyn, a jewelry designer, and her good friend Ed Calma, an architect.

"From the moment Stella and I sat with Ed over dinner," says Wyn Wyn, "we agreed to designer in some areas. We value our friendship, but we've always had a professional relationship."

Such "rules of engagement," in the end, worked in favor of the house, as Wyn Wyn

PAGE E4

ART pieces made of discarded objects

SHELVES hold folk art pieces from all over Southeast Asia treasured for their individual "history."

THE CHAIRS did away with a breakfast nook, as they did with a "dirty" kitchen, since they use the dining table at every meal.

TREBLE writing using chinaware and flatware is one of new the world. Also featured are resident sandcastles made from glass blocks.

HUGE acrylic paintings by Maya Munoz stand out in the living room, which also features a series of sitting areas covered in linen.

OUTDOOR pond offers the Dogs and their guests an ideal way to relax on warm evenings.

Asian jewel

From page E1

and Calma fine-tuned, fed off on and edited out each other's ideas.

In fact, the couple's friends are still wondering how Wyn Wyn was able to convince Calma, who's known to have the use of white and beige, to add a dash or two of bold colors to his latest work.

This departure is evident in the huge aubergine (French for "eggplant") wall by the foyer and a series of red acrylic paintings by Maya Munoz in the living room. Together with Wyn Wyn's other sculptures, they provide a series of enchantingly eclectic focal impact centers with just the right touch of warmth.

But the biggest showcase by far of how the collaboration has turned certain established givens on their heads can be seen in the ground floor powder room. A gleaming glass chief's-space-chic echoes Wyn Wyn's fascination with color and texture.

"I'd originally wanted to make it white," she says, "but as a jewelry designer, I wanted **to do something more colorful and textured.**"

Each room, in fact, is built around a concept, she adds. The powder room just has one of a black-lipped Tahitian oyster that houses a huge white pearl.

The walls, a shimmering mosaic of Italian glass, were painstakingly placed together one by one without grouting. It took a master bricklayer to finish the job. In the end, Calma was himself surprised once he liked how the unusual bathroom turned out.

The absence of grouting is also evident on huge ceramic tiles that make up the ground floor. Calma designed and measured them in such a way that all their vertical and horizontal lines intersect.

Unlike most other homes, no corner, small, uneven pieces of tiles are hidden somewhere in an obscure corner in the Ong abode.

Apart from their aesthetic quality, the tiles are easy to maintain (a wet mop will do nicely, thank you), which suits the Ongs and their lucky Labrador Bo just fine.

In fact, the presence of Bo, the arboreal-sniffed "king of the house," figured in Wyn Wyn's creative process as she went about designing the gardens.

"I did the gardens myself with two helpers," she says. "Since I was inspired by Bo's environment, I didn't want to create chaos and disturbance, at the same time, I wanted something easy to maintain."

In the end, she resorted to layering with **rich Talisay soil at the bottom, gravel and** sand in the middle and black river stones on top. A few hardy tropical plants (no cactus, please) fill out Bo's territories.

"I didn't want to give my girls a hard time," she says. "The garden combines aesthetics and practicality which makes a lot of sense."

Judging from the absence of Bo's huge pawprints on the pristine beige (the last to survive knowledgeable household help), Wyn Wyn's attempt at outdoor landscaping has been a rousing success.

Texture and contrast

Calma was also able to achieve texture and contrast by incorporating stained wood such as ipil-ipil and engineered coconut in the interior's overall design.

These relatively dark materials, which are set off by a series of white ceilings and a sculptural staircase, can be seen on the steps leading to the bedrooms. The doors and floors of the family's private spaces were also done in lighter stained wood.

The parameters were clear from the start: the Ongs wanted a refurbished house built around their lifestyle of entertaining and cooking for friends on a regular basis. Rather than rail against Wyn Wyn, with the help of her well-trained staff, prefers to do the cooking herself during parties.

Back in December, for instance, when the couple and their grown-up children Michael and Stephanie moved in, Wyn Wyn dared to host a cocktail party for 30 people. Up to the last minute, she wasn't sure if the plan was going to work. To her relief, it did.

"We were able to create nice conversation areas all over the house," she says. "People were all over the place. We catered to them and they were so comfortable."

Wyn Wyn attributes her home's party-friendly floor plan to her architect's ingenuity at fully utilizing space and volume.

Calma opened up a cookless area leading to **the den and converted it into a dining area adjacent to a streamlined and fully equipped kitchen. A so-called "dirty" kitchen has no** place in this house.

A series of steps leading to the sunken area acts like an artery connecting the dining room **with the huge living room.**

He then turned the space, once reserved for the old dining area, into a second sitting area beside the rear garden. Apart from innovating a few decorative treatments on existing windows, he also went for bigger sliding glass doors to allow the outside in.

Wyn Wyn, for her part, eschewed sleek futuristic pieces made of leather and steel. The cool, mannish look so typical of minimalist homes in favor of comfy pieces wrapped in earth-toned linen. The only exceptions are a series of embossed leather chairs that occupy the center of the living room.

Bold area rugs from the Middle East and South Asia not only set off our dining area from the other, but also impart a blush of color and warmth on the living room as well as the master bedroom.

"This house is really perfect for the negosi," Wyn Wyn swears. "It's very easy to clean, has constant ventilation and uses a great deal of indigenous materials. It's a celebration of the Filipino in us."

E-mail the author at cowegan@inquirer.com.ph

A HOME with lots of sunshine

YEAR garden features a "layered" area consisting of soil, gravel and black river rocks.

BOLD COLORS wall and art pieces add warmth to the reading area.

THE shimmering powder room: Wyn Wyn's idea of a black-lipped Tahitian oyster with a huge pearl

SLIDING glass doors in the kitchen reveal a series of custom-built cabinets that feature Wyn Wyn's extensive collection of tableware.

SKYLIGHT floods the master bedroom during the day. The wooden Venetian blinds were custom-built, as were the floors made of engineered coconut.

MODERN and spacious kitchen caters to the family's need to host parties regularly.

Jazz pianist Noriega performs at the CCP

NOTED FILIPINO-JAZZ pianist Victor Noriega will be featured in a special concert, "Mga," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater today, 3 p.m.

Hailed as a young Dave Brubeck, Noriega, son of Filipino immigrants, has been honored with prestigious Golden Ear Awards given by Stanley Jazz as Emerging Artist of the Year (2005), Southwest Instrumentalist of the Year (2006) and Southwest Recording of the Year (2006) for his "Mga" album.

An up-and-coming original voice in jazz piano, Noriega has captivated audiences worldwide with his authentic touch on the piano, and an inventive approach to improvisation. At the 2004 Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music in Alberta, Canada, Noriega studied with top international musicians Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell, James Genus, Chestnut Petit, Brad Turner, Mike Murley, Hans Moran, Tim Brenda and Mark Helmond.

He has also recorded and performed in concert and club settings with noted artists George Lewis and Mark Rapp. His debut CD, "Victor's Theme," recorded in 2004 with The Victor Noriega Trio, earned favorable reviews from critics.

Noriega obtained his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies in 2000 from the University of Washington on a four-year scholarship.

He will perform original compositions and contemporary arrangements of Filipino tunes such as "Ehdil Ilocano," "Boya," "Bahay Kubo," "Pandanggalora," "Manhid Ka Kaya," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Bayan Ko" and "Harana."

Guest artists are Alvin Carreon (saxophone), Roger Herrera (bass) and Jay Castillo (drums). Noriega is currently performing at the Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival (PIJAF).

"Mga" was recorded through a full residency grant by the 2005 Artist Support Program of the Jack Straw Foundation, produced by TKB (Tim and Kristy) and Recorded in 2006. It is a benefit concert for outstanding music students at the University of the Philippines through the Scholarship Program of the Sigma Alpha Fraternity Alumnae Association and the University of Santo Tomas.

Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office at P500 each. Call Nolee Noriega, 750-1416.

ASALA Land External Affairs officer Sonny Ignatius Dela Cruz, representative Helen Hosmillo, Trillanes deputy GM Melo Jalandoni, Mayor Sonny Belmonte, QC Vice-Mayor Joseph Ignacio Santiago Juan and Trillanes GM Joel Hernandez

New QC mall holds job fair

TRINOMA, ANSA MALL OF NEW MUNICIPAL shopping center in Quezon City, held the three-day job fair "Careers at Trillanes." Over 30 merchants participated, offering more than 5,000 jobs.

Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, with Trillanes general manager Joel Hernandez and deputy GM Melo Jalandoni, formally opened the fair.

Several government agencies set up satellite offices to service pre-employment needs of applicants like Social Security System, Philhealth Members, National Bureau of Investigation clearance, police clearance and Community Tax Certificates.

Trillanes is scheduled to open a second quarter of the year, with Landmark as its major anchor. It offers over 350 retail stores. A one-hectare park, complemented by special water features, also adorn the building.

Trillanes will have several stores—kids, teen, sports, home, wellness and information technology. It will also feature state of the art digital cinemas, generous parking space, and a direct connection to the North Avenue station of the MRT.

HOPEFUL job seekers go through the list of Trillanes job openings.

OVER 5,000 job hunters joined "Careers at Trillanes."

Gift of change begins early

OVER 200 POOR FAMILIES, MORE than twice the initial number of residents, now live in the Jaime Cardinal Sin Village in Pasay, Sta. Ana, Manila.

The village, supported through donations raised by the Jollibee's Mall "The Gift of Change, opened in 2003.

It is administered by the Services Foundation, with Che-anne Sison of the parish priest of Pasay, Fr. Rhody C. Maala.

To help provide the needs of the community, Robinsons Malls' "The Gift of Change sought the support of companies like Amapro, Bayara, Greenstone, Gary Stationery, Unrine Supplies, CDR and Bahaharai Foundation who ably assisted in complete the requirements of the community.

Additional funds and dry goods were also raised through sale banks and donation boxes in Robinsons Malls in Metro Manila.

The village now has two three-story buildings, an elementary school, a church and recreation operated by the residents themselves.

Before Manila's new prospective residents are screened and those who pass get living quarters consisting of a sala/dining room, toilet and a bedroom. The family is responsible for completing their home and should pay water, electrical and other bills.

This year The Gift of Change will have the theme "A Gift of Love, The Gift of Change."

Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) corporate HR manager Rosanny Guevarra-Villegas said the project was being launched first manila outlet because so much still had to be done.

Donations raised this year will go to the completion of the school library among others.

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HOST Gerry Corpuz, JJ Moreno Foundation founding chair Hobby Cojuangco and honoree Pitoy Moreno with UP College of Medicine scholars

COJUANGCO awarding a UP College of Medicine scholar with Elena Fernando (left) and Moreno assisting

MARIA Cojuangco-Yulo (center) with the UP College of Agriculture scholars

MORENO with three of seven scholars from the UP College of Medicine

MERCY Reyes, Carol Garcia, Cleng Montinola and Minette Concepcion

QUIRINO Cojuangco with Shana Wijangco and Dr. Haydee Abcede

Do-good, feel-good birthday for Pitoy Moreno

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EVERY YEAR JOSE "PITOY" Moreno celebrates his birthday surrounded by friends but he wouldn't mind the quiet birthday Cojuangco.

The feel-good atmosphere at Pitoy's party oozes not only from the music and the food (Pitoy's Caesar salad and lechon are to die for) but is for the huge part a result of the do-good reason for the get-together.

Moreno's birthday coincides every year with the granting of the J. Moreno Foundation scholarships to deserving medical and law students at Moreno's alma mater, the University of the Philippines.

The scholarship grants—seven for medical students and five for law and majors—are actually awarded twice a year. The other occasion is the birthday of Co-Jumgco, founding chair of the J. Moreno Foundation.

The year at Moreno's birthday bash held in the posh penthouse of architect Gerry Corpuz, Co-Jumgco and the celebrant awarded scholarships to medical students Apple Baldovino, Kathryn Ty, Anthony Co, Dennielle Amarcillo, Bro. Adrian Pelias, Paulo Medina and Israel Manuntag. The law students are Eduardo Baraan, Marjorie Rodrigues, Penelope Antone, Marian Ramos and Noel Gendrano.

Moreno has added grants for agriculture students to encourage more high-school graduates to take up agriculture in college. "I am disheartened that the number of enrollees in the colleges of agriculture is reportedly going down," said Moreno. "We wonder were having to import rice and fruits from Thailand. I wish more young people would see that there is money in agriculture. Look at Dumaling Cojuangco."

As a result of his concern, the J. Moreno Foundation now awards scholarships to five students from the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños. The

JOHNNY Valdes

ROSITA Gonzalez

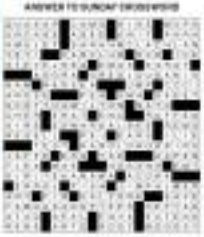
WILLIAM How, Elaine How and Susie Dinero

NOEL Gonzalez, Fernan Lucenara and Mabel Abaya

NEMA Villanueva, Chel Ratajkak, Alex Sandejas (seated) Elena Fernando, Moly Moreno

RAMON Peñalosa and COP president Nin Jurilla

NENE Quinsaat and Flaring Drugan



ANSWER TO DUNCAN'S CROSSWORD

Sunday LIFESTYLE

ARTIST'S rendition of the Santana Grove

Supercenter in the south

Shopwise opens its seventh outlet in Santana Grove, Sucat's new lifestyle destination

By Rina Y. Vergara

DENIZENS OF MUNTINLUPA, Las Piñas and Parañaque will soon enjoy a wider if not better range of retailing options with the opening of Santana Grove in May.

Inspired by upscale strip malls in Los Angeles, Orlando and The Promenade and The Grove), Santana Grove is situated in a 6-hectare property on Dr. A. Santos Avenue (Sucat Road).

Its developers, led by the Tanseco family, envision it as a holistic lifestyle center that will house a diverse mix of shops, sales, restaurants and services. It will even boast of a garden center complete with all kinds of ornamental plants for the home and office.

"We want to provide people an oasis in the middle of an urban area along Sucat," says Celina Tanseco-Abella, VP of Inspirasia Holdings Inc., developers of Santana Grove.

Thus, apart from offering shoppers plenty of shopping options, Santana Grove will make the most out of its open spaces to give its customers more reasons to linger and soak up the fresh air and sunshine.

"Unlike the place is designed for families," says Sylvia Tanseco-Ramos, treasurer of Inspirasia Holdings Inc., "we want people to stay a while longer and unwind after doing their shopping and groceries."

In keeping with its vision as an oasis of life (and food there), Santana Grove will also play host to a "world cuisine" café-resto-bar fare, people behind the development took its cue from Balmoral City to Libis. The first and perhaps the biggest cafe center hub in the Philippines by Eating Out, the same design company.

CRICKETTE Tanseco

Anchor store

But to mall-obsessed Filipinos who have grown accustomed to instant gratification, two months is a long time to wait.

Well, they need not wait a minute longer since Shopwise Supercenter, Santana Grove's anchor as well as its biggest tenant, will open ahead of everybody else today. Once the mall is fully operational, Shopwise will be connected to the rest of the establishment via a concrete bridge way.

The newest outlet, the seventh in the company's growing chain of supercenters, will carry everything a loyal patron has come to expect from Shopwise.

On top of a complete range of grocery items, the latest addition to the Shopwise family promises to offer the freshest and choicest meat, fish and produce, giving consumers the best value for their money.

With a total area of 15,000 sq m (5,000 sq m of which is devoted to the store), the Shopwise store not for the biggest (the Cubao branch still holds the record), but it's by far the most stylish, with a contemporary red and blue façade that has an unmistakable resemblance to the old Boston's Alaskan.

And to make it truly a one-stop shopping and dining experience, Shopwise has allotted space for such tenants as National Bookstore, Mercury Drug, Gerry's Grill, Xtasia,

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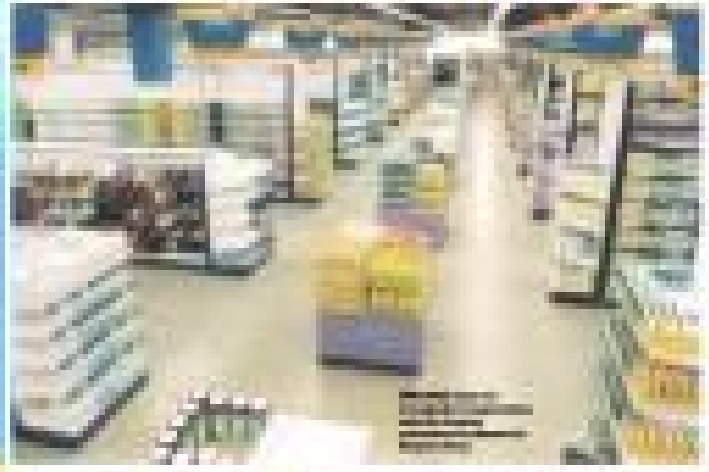
Supercenter in the south



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ENTERTAINMENT

Edsir Boone G. Velarde

"HOME and (sober)" lead cast (from L) Mylene Dizon, Miss Philippines and Andrea del Rosario. Below: director Connie Macasaet at work.

Connie & her camera

Ex-network producer debuts on big screen with a 'different' women's movie

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

DIRECTING DIRECTOR Connie S. A. Macasaet truly runs from the ranks, having studied at Iloilo director on "Eyes ng Talusan" and executive producer on "Crazy Persistence"—both ABS-CBN shows.

Connie further honed her directing skills on the Regionlite network "Star Cinema Presents" and "Shoutpinoy."

Although she is not a film major, she says she started developing her passion for production work in college, while helping stage the annual UP Sarsuela (also reappears Live A.I.D.S.)."

For her film debut, she picked "Home and Adult," an unlikely crossover between Tagalog-language and women. It folds both and a wedding planners—played by Andrea del Rosario and Mylene Dizon, respectively. Host with a digital camera, "Home" was an entry in the Inter-Cinema Guerillas festival.

Connie, who says she's lesbian, insists she was inspired by gay friends' relationships.

As for the "lesbian" film tag, she's cool with it. "It literally opens one of her friends: "Remember, everyone is gay."

"Home," the Nikolian production of Godfather is Filmmaker Gallo, is currently making the rounds of Scandinavian media conferences, including Berlin and Rotterdam.

It also has a screen engagement at Indie Sine beginning March 7, as part of the Women's Month celebrations.

What was the biggest challenge of shooting "Home"?

It was getting chapter to believe that it would work. [since] it's a non-traditional concept with a multi-stream approach. Another challenge was time constraints. I got the green light less than three weeks before principal night.

It was a total of guidance—problems ranged from actors' schedules to not having enough money. All in all, it was a learning process, a humbling but inspiring experience. The cast and crew believed in and were committed to the project.

How do you climb the best lines your mind?

I had a talented and passionate cast. Each one had his or her own [technique]. I just adapted to what worked for them. Without star Bet Arroyo in the Cinema One digital [the first for this movie.]

What was the audience feedback?

It was exhilarating to hear the people laughing in the movie house. I got mixed reviews ... you can't please everybody. I heard it was [brilliant]. But IMO screening. Friends and people were sitting in or standing in the aisles. I guess they liked it.

CONNIE SA

TAKE FIVE

In 'Terabithia,' reality & fantasy blend well

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HAVE JUST HAD A FUN TIME watching "Bridge to Terabithia" and hope that it's your cinematic cup of tea as well. It's unique fantasy film [because its] entertaining elements are made to bloom within the context of a very real situation.

Jack Hutchinson plays a lonely boy who loves to sketch but has a hard time making friends and feels awkward by his folks. At school, he meets gregory Anne-Sophia Robb), a new girl to town, who's much more sociable, but also lacks friends.

After an awkward start, the two odd-kids-out get along famously and enter into their own private, beautiful world of wonder. [Fantasy and imagination—their Bebe kingdom of Terabithia.

In this world [they learn how to work together and fight against the evil force that are holding the others in the beautiful kingdom in thrall. As they wage their Bebe battles [which are all too real for them], they also work out some of their growing up problems.

The kids remain kids in this production, but it's made clear that [when] they were allowed to develop, they would eventually fall in love. Alas, this doesn't happen, and the shocking plot twist [sends the mind out of the walls of the characters involved—and the film's emotion as well.

The skill to plot and treat can be painful, but it's also most instructive, because it shows how young people deal with loss, and what happens [once after it dies."

These naturally appear to be topics and issues that are too painful for adolescents to deal with. But, the fact is that death and loss affect people of all ages, so it's good that this film opens the topics up for young viewers to reset to, from the safe harbor of empathy.

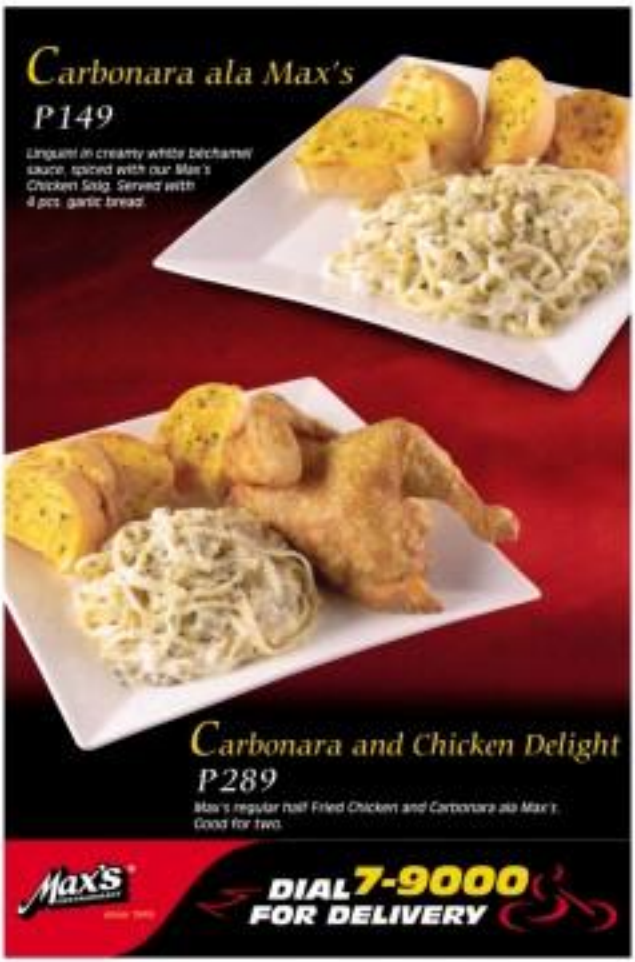
But it, the film's realism [comes are more plentiful and potent than its relatively few hints, or sequences, but we don't feel deprived, because the cast's performances are both pitch-perfect and heartfelt.

Hutchinson and Robb are excellent in their respective roles, and craft their portrayals without even looking like they're acting.

RV

INSIDE

Readers have a few things to say about Kris & James ... & Hope /H2



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G1	1 NUMBER 23	2 PRIMEVAL	3 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA	4 YOU GOT ME
G4	1 FLUSHED AWAY	2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING	3 PRIMEVAL	
	4 LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA	5 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND	6 YOU GOT ME	7 EPIC MOVIE
GB1	1 PRIMEVAL	2 YOU GOT ME		
GB3	1 LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA	2 MUSIC & LYRICS		
	3 GHOST RIDER	4 FLUSHED AWAY	5 YOU GOT ME	
ATC	1 YOU GOT ME	2 PRIMEVAL		
	3 FLUSHED AWAY	4 MUSIC & LYRICS	5 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING	
ACC	1 YOU GOT ME	2 PRIMEVAL	3 FLUSHED AWAY	4 THE PROMOTION
M2	1 YOU GOT ME	2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING		
	3 GHOST RIDER	4 PRIMEVAL	5 FLUSHED AWAY	

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At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN CENTER
BPI Express Credit Installment Madness February 26 to March 10, 2007	Luneta Town presents Lights, Camera ... Showtime! March 2 to 4, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
UAI College of Architecture & Fine Arts Annual Design Awards March 5, 2007	Luneta Town presents Lights, Camera ... Showtime! March 6 to 11, 2007

Greenbelt 4 Guest Pass presents Collection of Lulu Tan Gan February 23 to March 4, 2007

Cinemalaya Philippines presents SONG & DANCE at RBP's Main Theater - February 9 to March 4, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 897-0715

Ayala Museum CHINESE CHAMPIONS: Art Treasures from the Mainland (on stores) February 15 to March 27, 2007 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Kids Play at Bonifacio High Street

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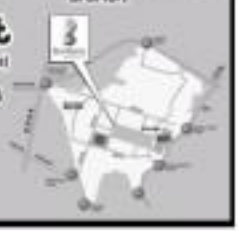
9Nov 3 & 4, 9Nov 10 & 11

4pm – 7pm

Activities:

- Face Painting
- Caricatures
- Glimmer Tattoos
- Balloon Sculpting
- Sand Art Station
- Wagner Painting Station



Taguig

'Idol' producers shrug off Net pics, girl stays on

AMERICAN IDOL ALIST GETS THE BOOT

Pic's officially unscored. As Idolatry fans have noted with a mischief either to censor, censor and set performances right from the three disagreeing judges' duel Sanjaya Malakar is still in the running, high.

She could win!

LOS ANGELES—Fans of "American Idol" on Thursday grew their backing to a female contestant purportedly shorn in some X-rated lesbian photos, voting to keep her on the show.

"Idol" host Ryan Seacrest online chat rooms and blogs arguing whether the photos really are of Antonella Barba and whether she'll get kicked off Fox network's talk as a result. "Idol" producers have shrugged off the controversy.

The 20-year-old former college student from New Jersey, was one of 20 competitors who last week advanced to the latest round. Some expected her to be voted off because of her mediocre singing and criticism from the judges, others said her lack of talent may not matter because of the shape of the dress.

"If a sex tape of Antonella makes the Internet she could win this competition," said entertainment news blog Buzzfocus.

Celebrity judge Simon Cowell and fellow producer Nigel Lythgoe said in separate media interviews this week Barba's future is entirely up to fans who vote on the contestants.

Barba has kept mum. Her friend Antonella Colaccia, a fellow "Idol" hopeful eliminated earlier, told the New Jersey Star-Ledger that only the least graphic photos are of Barba. "She's the least slutty person I know," Colaccia was quoted as saying. Reuters

France honors Jude Law

LONDON—Hollywood heartthrob actor Jude Law on Thursday for his contributions to cinema, describing him as "one of the most talented actors today."

French ambassador Gerard Errera named the star of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and "Cold Mountain" a knight in the Order of Arts and Letters at a ceremony in London.

"I am speechless," Law said. "My mum and dad have lived in France for 15 years so really it is a country I have as my home." Reuters

Prince presents Order of Arts and Letters awards to French sentiments and foreigners deemed to have significantly contributed to the country's cultural inheritance. Other past foreign recipients include Uma Thurman, Bruce Willis and David Bowie. AP

Jolie wants one more

BANGKOK, Thailand—Angelina Jolie has filed papers to adopt a Thai-Cambodian child. The actress's top adoption official said Friday.

A 10- adoption agency representing the Hollywood star filed the papers this week at Vietnam's International Adoption agency, said Vu Duc Long, the agency's director.

Jolie and her ex-partner partner, Brad Pitt, have three children—3-year-old Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; 2-year-old Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May. AP

Paul McCheerful

LONDON—Former Legend Paul McCartney appeared cheerful Thursday as he arrived in court for a preliminary hearing over his divorce from his estranged wife, Heather Mills.

"Good morning," the sharply-dressed musician said to waiting reporters.

One press report last month said McCartney is planning to offer Mills a 22-million-pound ($45 million) settlement to end the bitter divorce battle. AFP

Speaking of 'Idol'

MIAMI—American Idol" winner Taylor Hicks attends his head-turning up.

Hicks have a tougher task making the transition from reality TV star to established music singer.

His self-titled, post "Idol" album, released in December, debuted at No. 2 on the charts. It has sold a respectable 600,000 copies, but has slid to a distant tenth 130 this week. Hicks's Elvis Presley is once the top of the charts with the debut of his band Daughtry, selling over 1 million records.

Hicks plans to take a grassroots approach "to get out and tour the record." AP

Anna Nicole burial

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—Anna Nicole Smith's body will leave for the Bahamas by private plane early Friday, and the starlet will be buried hours later, said the attorney giving control of her remains after months of legal fighting.

OFF-CAM

HEART and Echo shopping at Bonnet's, Makati. CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA

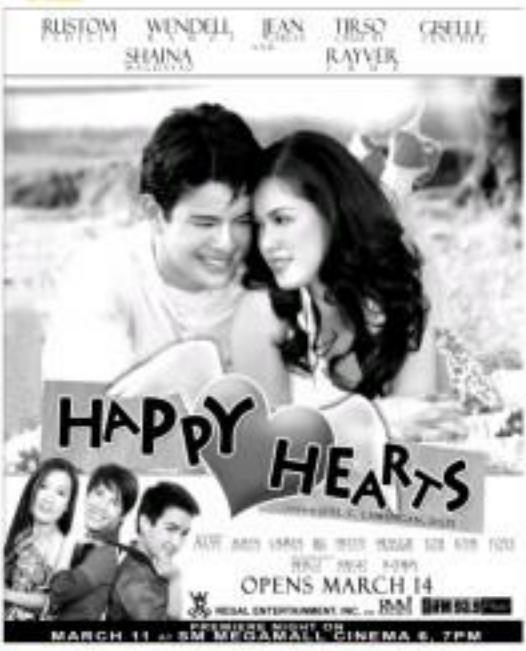
ANGEL and Richard at "The Promise" premiere.

TV reporter Oscar Oida and Francine Prieto in SM Bacoor after the Banner Day. ARCHIVE

RUSHES

Lee extravagant will cover a house in June down to Miami International Airport for the trip to the Bahamian capital of Nassau, said Richard Mihiels, the court-appointed advocate for Smith's 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn.

The funeral will take place later. But according to Nassau, Mihiels said in a statement Thursday. Both services are closed to the public. AP



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GALLERIA

1 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA • THX
2 GMA 7 Batch 9 Workshop Graduation 10:00AM
3 GHOST RIDER
4 FLUSHED AWAY EPIC MOVIE
5 YOU GOT ME
6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
7 KABUL EXPRESS MUSIC and LYRICS
8 PEPOT ARTISTA
8 THE NUMBER 23
10 PRIMEVAL

EXCLUSIVE SCREENING at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA
February 28 to March 06

ERMITA

1 YOU GOT ME
2 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA THE NUMBER 23
3 FLUSHED AWAY
4 EPIC MOVIE GHOST RIDER
5 PRIMEVAL
6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
7 ROME and JULIET

METRO EAST

1 THE NUMBER 23
2 FLUSHED AWAY
3 YOU GOT ME
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA
6 GHOST RIDER
7 PRIMEVAL
8 IT's A BOY GIRL THING

NOVALICHES

1 PRIMEVAL
2 YOU GOT ME
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 FLUSHED AWAY
5 EPIC MOVIE
6 GHOST RIDER

PIONEER

1 PRIMEVAL
2 FLUSHED AWAY
3 YOU GOT ME
4 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

SNEAK PREVIEWS
robinsons movieworld
+ Galleria
+ Sinatra
+ Metro East
+ Pioneer
March 5 and 6

STA. ROSA

1 PRIMEVAL
2 THE FOUNTAIN
3 TROIKA
4 YOU GOT ME

LIPA

1 GHOST RIDER
2 YOU GOT ME
3 THE CLEANER
4 TROIKA
5 BABEL

DASMARIÑAS

1 BOA
2 MUSIC and LYRICS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 PRIMEVAL

ANGELES

1 PRIMEVAL
2 YOU GOT ME
3 TROIKA
4 THE FOUNTAIN

IMUS

1 PRIMEVAL
2 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
3 YOU GOT ME
4 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

STARMILLS

1 THE FOUNTAIN
2 TROIKA
3 THE PROMISE
4 YOU GOT ME
5 PRIMEVAL
6 GHOST RIDER

BACOLOD

1 MUSIC and LYRICS
2 THE MESSENGERS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 GHOST RIDER
5 PRIMEVAL
6 APOCALYPTO

ILOILO

1 PRIMEVAL
2 YOU GOT ME
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 APOCALYPTO
5 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
6 GHOST RIDER

Connie & her camera

From page G1

What led you to "Rome"?

I read a friend about making a script on her. He said, male gays never stayed monogamous. I took it as a challenge to make people see that love knows no labels.

My inspirations were cinema's Alex Stajkovic and partner Chris. It reminded me of my own eight-year relationship with a former boyfriend, except that we're heterosexual.

I sat down with Alex's group of five lesbian couples. One of them told me, "There are no more straight women!"

While researching, I encountered women who've had intimate relationships with other women at some point. And I thought I was unconventional!

What is your stand on gay marriage? Gay rights?

It could be one. It's not about gender, labels or rules. The bottom line is love, strong and fulfilling the relationship is, with or without marriage.

Do you find comfortable with your debut being tagged as a "gay" film?

Whatever is done, I usually say it is a gay film, through the eyes of a straight woman. But it's not limited to gay showing. What I'm uncomfortable with is tagging it as a repeat of [Ostbaer's] "Imagine Me & You." I only climbed out the film after I had finished the "Rome" script.

What is your dream movie?

It is not Ang Mahiwaga and Vilma Santos in stylized roles. It would be an honor to work with them.

In ...

From page G1

Their interviewer is amazing for actors so young. They must be "old souls" who have an instinct for doing what's right, easy to the interviewer must have required of them as well to their young lives so far.

The true younger actress who plays Hutchersons had risen to even more impressive in her small role, because she's able to do so much with so little. She comes across with the golden glow of the very young Drew Barrymore in "E.T., The Extra-terrestrial," double-talk.

Even better, the child actress isn't using her beauty and beauty. Cut, she has a lot of sass, which she puts to highly effective use in some of her "sassy" scenes, making them tweaks and pop!

'Letters from Iwo Jima'

Clint Eastwood's "Letters from Iwo Jima," which opens World War II through Japanese soldiers' eyes, is being screened exclusively at Ayala Malls cinemas, Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3. The companion and "mirror image" piece to "Flags of our Fathers," also by Eastwood, is not to be missed.

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POP!

hugh grant drew barrymore

music and lyrics

Will Smith & son in a heartwarming true story

BE INSPIRED – IN THEATERS MARCH 7

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE

BEST ACTOR WILL SMITH

WILL SMITH

the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

kevin arigato · samaire armstrong · sharon osbourne

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He's the hottest jock.
She's the biggest nerd.
They're sworn enemies.
And they've just switched bodies.

NOW SHOWING

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OPENS MARCH 7

MTRCB PG-13

EVIL IS IN THE AIR

DEAD PEOPLE 2

NOW SHOWING

PRIMEVAL

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB PG-13

CERTIFIED BLOCKBUSTER!!!

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The Promise

"There's no movie that will make you fall in love this way. The Promise does!" – Lucy Torres

"It will captivate and enthrall you...it is a magnificent yearning romance with action and very scary!" – Andy Vineyard, Peoples Journal

"...a MASTERPIECE that will stay in our hearts forever." – Alex Datu, Remate

"Yes, without a doubt, the MOVIE EVENT OF THE SEASON!" – Cinema Notes, The Manila Bulletin

NOW ON ITS MUST-SEE 3RD WEEK!

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ALEC BALDWIN · BILLY CRUDUP · MICHAEL GAMBON · WILLIAM HURT · JOHN TURTURRO

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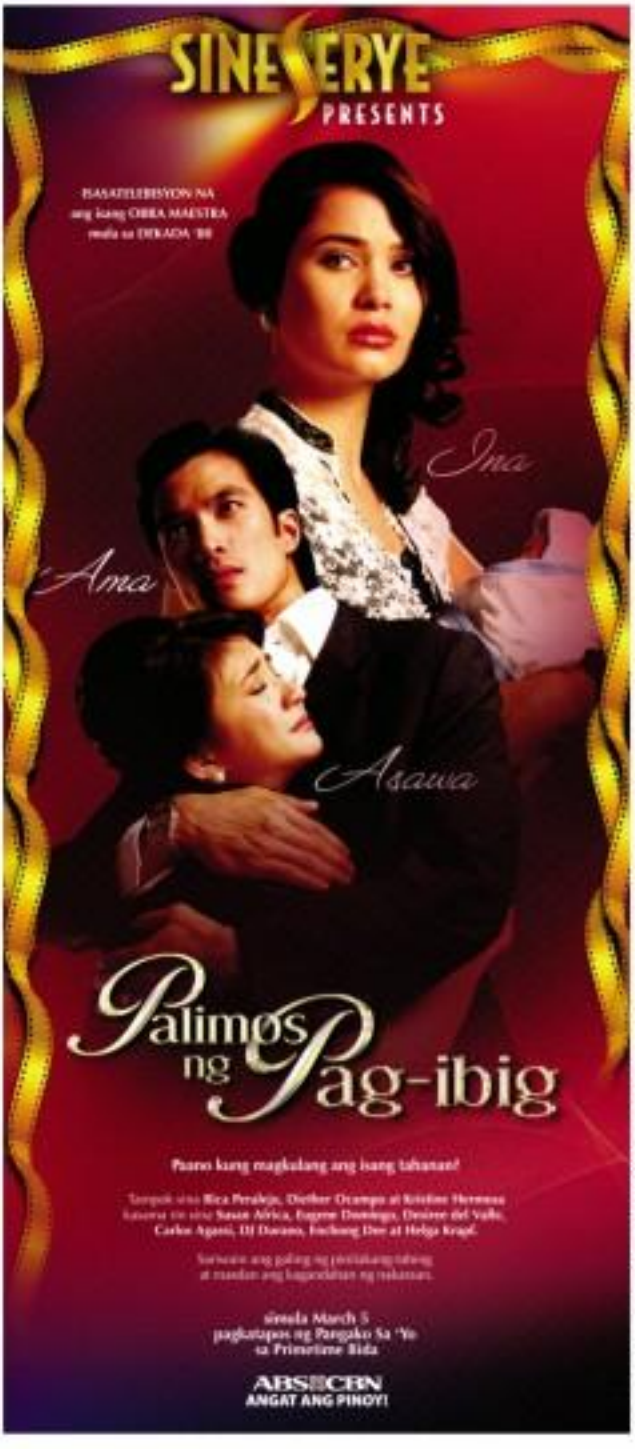
"Spellbinding...Mesmerizing" David Ansen, Newsweek

R-13

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The untold story of the most powerful covert agency in the world.

IN THEATERS MARCH 7



ROUNDUP

Negros Arts Fair

ACTORS JOEL TORRE AND GABBY Concio[nero] will share their passion and dedication to their craft at the "Meet the Artists" segment of the National Arts Fair today at the Negros Museum lobby.

The arts fair is a flagship project of the National Commission for Culture and Arts-Committee on Art Galleries, which is spearheaded by the Negros Cultural Foundation of the Province of Occidental Negros.

Call 7501681 or e-mail nationalarts.fair.negros@gmail.com.

Int'l women's festival

The 13th International Women's Film Festival of the UP Film Institute opens tomorrow at the UP Film Institute Cine Adarna.

Selected international short films from Hungary and Israel will be screened at 5 p.m. The award-winning Spanish film "Salvajes" will have a public screening at 7:00 p.m.

Other films to be shown are "La Pasion de Maria Maria" (Mexico), "Strawmen" (Netherlands) and "Syrup" (Switzerland). From the Philippines, it will feature "Romeo and Juliet," "Medeska," "Siang Siyo" and "Wanna."

The film fest runs until March 6.

Dreamgirls preview

United International Pictures will hold a sneak preview of the movie musical "Dreamgirls" tomorrow and March 6 in selected cinemas in Metro Manila.

A musical set in the 1960s and 1970s with a predominantly African-American cast, "Dreamgirls" is adapted from the 1981 Broadway musical of the same title, which was based on the history of Motown and the evolution of female singing groups that made over the years.

The film follows the lives of three women—Effie White, Deena Jones and Lorrell Robinson—who, as members of an R&B singing group called "The Dreamettes," become famous as the backing group for soul singer James "Thunder" Early.

'True Asian Horror'

"True Asian Horror," which premieres on Discovery Channel on March 7 at 11 p.m., is a two-part documentary that describes how Asian directors have combined local myths with filming techniques and innovative storytelling to produce scary movies.

The series includes scenes from the "Ring"—the Japanese film by Hideo Nakata, voted by audiences as the scariest movie ever—and modern horror classics such as Thailand's "The Eye" by Danny and Oxide Pang and Korea's "Phone" by Ahn Byeong-ki.

UST campus film fest

The Santisteban, the 70-year-old student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, is holding GinAba, UST's first major in-campus film festival from March 7 to 9 in the Thomas Aquinas Research Center.

The three-day film fest will showcase internationally acclaimed indie movies such as Bellante Abrahan's "Masses," Nias Arevalo's "923, Red #7" and Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" as well as local and international documentaries, shorts and digital films.

Admission is free.

Jericho in Ghana

Jericho Rosales flew to Ghana, Africa via Dubai the other day to do a concert tomorrow with some local celebrities at the National Theater.

He was accompanied by Soundcheck director-sound engineer Ruth Urgiza and his personal manager Mariaro Carvajal-Heredia of Cocoon.

Jericho will do a 30-minute promotional stint and host a press conference upon arrival in the country where his soap opera "Tinoko Ohogako Ka Ito" is a big hit.

Please see also above his concerts in Kenya, Iloilo, Kuala Lumpur and Brunei.

Musical comedy

"M&M: Mag-asawa o Magkaaway?"

"Mag-Asawa o Magkaaway? . . . still" is screened in all SM digital theaters nationwide starting March 1.

A hit in last year's Cinemalaya film festival, the light teen-oriented rom-com comedy movie involves mom's shooter search for happiness in typical Pinoy fashion.

The movie stars stage actor Andy Bais in the role of Tikay, an ice cream vendor searching for his lost mother. It also features Ritky Torres, Caridad Sanchez, Nanette Inventor, Ike Gomez, Nonie Buencamino, Sunnary Isaac, Mica Teen and Elijah Castillo.

Suspense-drama

Set at the FBI Crisis Negotiation Unit in Los Angeles, "Standoff" is a suspense drama series that centers on top ranked FBI Crisis negotiator who are romantically involved with each other.

Viewed to keep the relationship a secret, Matt Flannery (Rob Livingston) reveals he's been sleeping with his colleague, Emily Lehman (Rosemarie Dewitt), closing tension-heavy episodes.

The series, created by Craig Silverstein and directed by Tim Story airs every Tuesday 9 p.m. at CNN Channel.

New sitcom

Solar Entertainment and 6PN present "Kotak sila-sala ensemble," a new TV sitcom inspired by the real-life situation of family now who take on a new role—from homebound to "breadwinner."

It stars Bayani Agbayani, who plays the main character Gordon Bagatsik, a freelance cartoonist and cheesier, rather, "loony."

The renewal of roles happens after Gordon's wife Clarissa, played by Dawn Gil, decides to try her luck abroad.

Gordon is left to look after their daughters Honeydew
(Bridgett Lunn) and Sweetdew (Bing).

The series airs Mondays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. starting March 12 on

ENTERTAINMENT

Christina Ricci: Wild, sexy, terrific as 'nympho' in new film

LOS ANGELES—CHRISTINA RICCI plays a damaged girl in "Black Snake Moan," the kind that some would dismiss as a teen slut. So when she showed up at the interviewer elegantly outfitted, made-up and dressed, the effect was breathtaking.

In essence, she was saying: That was the actress playing a part; this is me. And what a part it is. Christina plays Rae, an abused young woman in the South, taken in by an ex-bluesman (the great Samuel L. Jackson), who emotionally damaged, who attempts to help her while healing himself in the process. She is dressed only in underwear most of the time in the movie. She has a sex scene with Justin Timberlake, who does creditably as her boyfriend.

At one point, Samuel's character Lazarus in significant rants, you will agree Christina is a confident to she would use to try to escape while he tries to hold her. Film reviewers have been using "nymphomaniac" to describe Rae's "wicked ways" but Christina thinks that term is dated. This condition is a "freak-fantasy" she commented.

In the interview, Christina talked movingly about researching and learning more about child abuse, which leads victims to act self-destructively later in their lives. She revealed, "It was truly painful to discover and understand all of that but once I did, it felt like I did her (Rae) and other victims a little justice."

For her bravery and compelling performance, Christina is getting raves from critics. Samuel, whom we also interviewed, was already touting Christina for the Oscars... 2006. He said, "I have been in trouble with quite a few people for saying what's on my mind—which leads me to say (laughter), I hope next year when the award nominations ... comes around, the honesty, professionalism and ACHIEVEMENT that Christina has shown in this film doesn't go unnoticed."

You have always been articulate to be voiced on camera but this film takes it to another level. How was that for you?

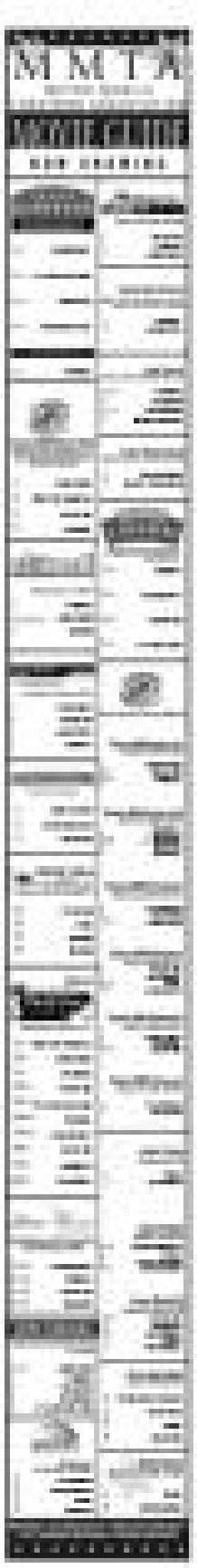
As an actor, I recognized the woman. There's a well-established link between childhood abuse and young women who are promiscuous and self-destructive, who self-abuse and have no self-esteem. To me, this extreme behavior was almost not sexual because it's so self-destructive. I felt so passionately about [Rae]. The more research about what she would have been experiencing and feeling, the more sensitive and heartbreaking

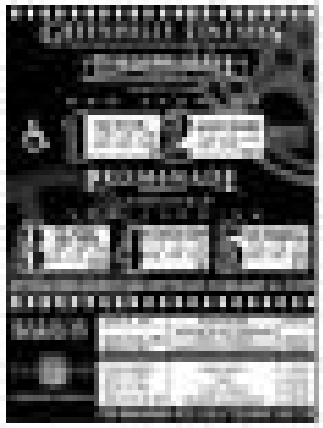
ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

'Passion for the project overtook all the trepidation that I had at the start'

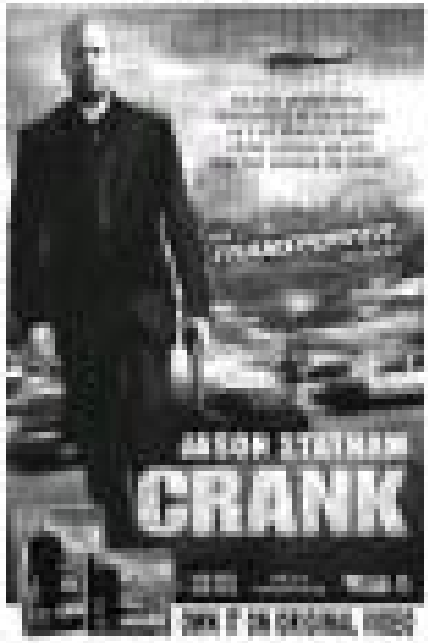
CHRISTINA: Real during the interview

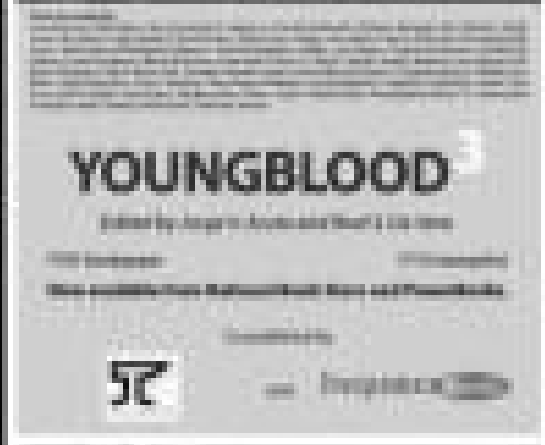
FREE ROOM USE
FROM 5PM TO MIDNIGHT

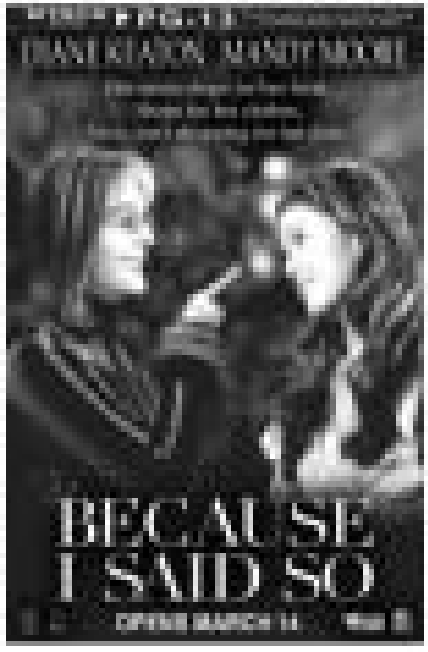


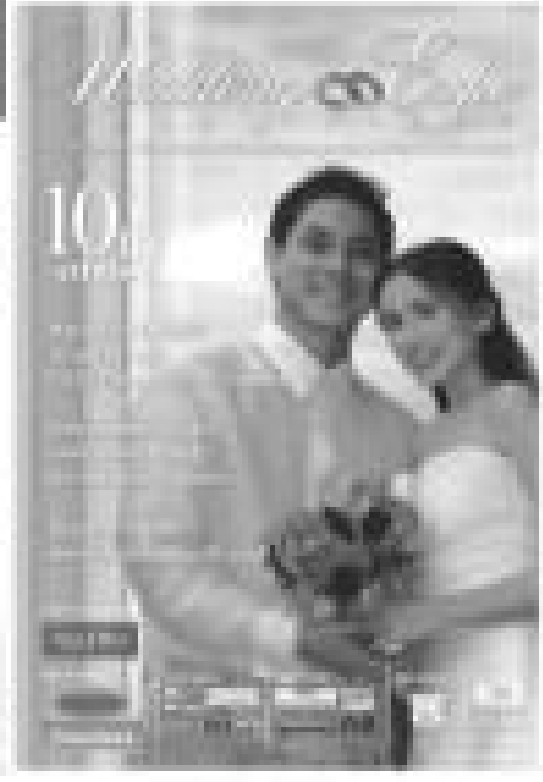


Readers tackle Brits & James ... and Hope









Christina Ricci: Wild, sexy . . .

With Jamie Bamber in her boyfriend...

...and Samuel L. Jackson as her "trainer"